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Bo Mya Warns Thailand

42000050A Bangkok THE NATION in English
12 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] Ethnic Karen rebels in Burma will shell Thailand if Burmese government troops attack from that side of the border, guerrilla leader Bo Mya has warned.

"Where the Burmese troops are, we can shell," the portly Karen chief said about fighting between his rebels and troops that is escalating in a strategic border region earmarked for a UN-supported Asian highway.

Asked if this meant that the Karens, who have bases along 300 kilometers (180 miles) of Burma's border with Thailand, would use their mortars and artillery against Thai territory, he said "yes."

He also warned his guerrillas would sabotage logging in areas that Burmese troops have seized from the Karens to trade with Thailand.

The comments Friday at his Manerplaw headquarters came only hours before Burmese troops and Karen rebels clashed in Thailand, just opposite the Karen's Kawmoora camp on the Burmese side of the border bristling with mortars and bunkered machine-gun emplacements.

The fighting ended Saturday, apparently without Karen shelling as their troops counter-attacked in Thailand.

Thai troops captured a Burmese major and an enlisted man and reported 14 Burmese troops dead on Thai soil, Thai military sources said in Mae Sot, just south of the battlesite.

"Wherever the enemy stays, that is the front line," General Bo Mya said in Manerplaw, 150 kilometers (90 miles) north of the fighting.

The Karens, the most long-running of a dozen ethnic insurgencies fighting for regional autonomy since Burma became independent in 1948, have so far refrained from shelling into Thailand. They strive to maintain good relations since their main bases are all along the border.

Their change of policy on counterattacks and shellings comes as Rangoon troops make unprecedented gains, taking lucrative Thai-oriented teak and smuggling businesses away from the Karens in an attempt to destroy their economic base.

Rangoon is angered that the Karens host thousands of students who fled central Burma after a military coup in September 1988 crushed nationwide pro-democracy protests. It has responded by capturing about one-third of the 400 kilometer (240 mile) border stretch the Karens controlled.

The Burmese attack Friday, timed to an eclipse of the moon, was the third major incursion into Thailand since December 1988.

Burmese troops last May burnt the Thai market on Wangkaew opposite Kawmoora in an attack on the key

Karen camp, which controls access to Mae Sot and the Burmese town of Myawaddy which faces it across the Moei River. These two towns would be a crossing point for the UN-supported project to build a highway spanning Asia.

The Karen counter-attack was the first time the Karens had answered by moving their own troops into Thailand, although a similar incident occurred in 1984 at the border town of Maw Po Kay.

The battle from late Friday until early Saturday pitted some 2,000 Burmese soldiers against a Karen force about half that size at Kamoora, built along the Mei which is the Thai-Burmese border in this sector, reliable sources said.

Karen fighters attacked a Burmese company of about 300 men trying to attack Kawmoora late Friday from the rear, which faces Thailand, a Karen major said here Saturday, translating Karen battle reports coming by Walkie-Talkie.

Karens took two Burmese prisoner as they repulsed the attack on Kawmoora, Major Ganemy Kunoo said. Two Karen units of 50 each took the prisoners back to Kawmoora. Maj Ganemy did not indicate the total size of the Karen force.

Thai troops also captured two Burmese soldiers, a major Kyaw Win and an enlisted Man Kyaw Naing Oo, Thai military sources said in Mae Sot. The Thais also captured three Burmese army ammunition porters, the sources added.

Thai sources in Mae Sot said one Thai ranger was killed and one villager wounded in the fighting, near Wangkaew. Four houses in the village burned down after being hit by stray mortar shells, they said.

The sources said the Burmese troops left Wangkaew Saturday morning after being sent away by the Thai military.

More Bodies of Troops Found in Thai-Burmese Border

42000050B Bangkok THE NATION in English
12 Feb 90 p 2

[Article by Amnaj Yuwaphan]

[Text] Thirteen more bodies of Burmese soldiers were discovered yesterday in an area where Thai security forces clashed Saturday with Rangoon troops crossing into Thai territory, officials reported.

The discovery brought to 21 the number of Burmese soldiers died in the clash early Saturday morning near Baan Wang Kaew of Tambon Mae Pa in this district. Eight bodies of Burmese troops were found on Saturday.

About 300 Burmese soldiers crossed the Moei River bordering the two countries into Thailand on Saturday in a bid to circle a stronghold of Karen ethnic rebels.

Thai forces opened fire after the intruders ignored warnings that they were on the Thai soil.

Fighting has intensified along Thai-Burmese border where ethnic groups live. Saturday's incident was the third major incursion into Thailand since 1988.

Thailand is demanding compensation from Burma following last May's burning of Thai villagers' houses by Burmese troops fighting minority rebels.

Apart from the Karens, Rangoon soldiers have also mounted fierce attacks on the Mon ethnic group near the Three Pagoda Pass in Kanchanaburi.

Mons Claim Thais Sold Them Out

42000050C Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
19 Feb 90 p 4

[Text] Leaders of the besieged ethnic Mon charged over the weekend that some Thai authorities and timber merchants collaborated with Burmese government forces in their attack and eventual seizure of a Mon military stronghold at the Three Pagodas Pass last week.

Nai Tin Aung, president of the central executive committee of the New Mon State Party and his colleagues said Thai security forces practically ignored an incursion into Thai territory by Burmese troops who later launched a surprise assault on the Mon headquarters from the rear on Feb 7.

"The enemy could not possibly have taken over our stronghold without the support of certain powerful Thai timber merchants," said Tin Aung.

In previous major offensives during 1981, 1984, and 1987 Mon leaders said Burmese forces never came as close as they did this weekend to the headquarters in Nam Kek village about three kilometers away from the Three Pagodas Village.

"This year the Burmese forces are weaker than they have ever been before. The troops have had to be spread thinly because of political turmoil throughout the country. Therefore it is incomprehensible for us that they could have taken our camp at this time."

The Mon leaders estimated the number of rebel troops in the area to be about 1,500—around the same number as the attacking Burmese troops. The Mon rebels were supported in the battle by the Karen who maintain a jungle base a short distance away.

Tin Aung claimed that in the first clashes on Feb 3, rebel forces had an advantage over Burmese troops. He said four battalions of Burmese troops approached the Mon stronghold—the 31st and 106th from the North and the 61st and 101st from the South. From Feb 5 to Feb 7 the Burmese were completely surrounded by Mon and Karen troops, in both areas, he said.

He said the Burmese 61st and 101st battalions were in danger of annihilation. The two rebel groups felt secure

that their control over the border area in Burma would prevent Burmese re-inforcements from coming to the rescue of their beleaguered colleagues.

But on Feb 7, an estimated 200 Burmese troops appeared unexpectedly from inside Thai territory, freed the surrounded troops and went on to take over the Mon headquarters.

The Mon rebels are still puzzled over exactly where these new troops came from. "From our calculations we believe that some troops separated from the 106th and 31st battalions, swung North East and came down through the pass. Others we believe were harbored within Thai territory at the Patumtanti Tangkakarn Saw Mill (located a few kilometers from Three Pagoda Pass)," said one Mon official who asked to remain anonymous. "There is no way that Burmese forces could have used either one of these approaches without Thai knowledge," Tin Aung said.

According to informed sources, a Thai military post near the Three Pagodas Pass had been vacated prior to Feb 7 "without any reasons given". Thai authorities were in the past accused by Rangoon of harboring and supporting the minority rebels.

The sources said the Burmese troops and porters were seen marching inside Thai territory a few meters outside the empty military outpost. In fact there were no Thai security forces present in the sensitive border area on the day the Burmese troops came in, the sources said.

Mon leaders claimed that some Thai authorities and timber merchants wanted to use the Burmese to remove both their [Mon] influence and that of the Karens from the border area.

They explained that every tone of timber that makes its way from Burma to Thailand costs timber merchants four-times as much. In addition to the export charges that they must pay to the Burmese government and import cost levied by the Thai government, the merchants must also pay a "passage fee" to every rebel group that controls the local border region. This 'passage fee' has been the Mon's and Karen's main source of support in their struggle against Rangoon.

Last year Thai sawmill owners paid Bt3,000 for each tone of timber to both the Karen and Mon forces near the Patumtanti Tangkakarn saw mill. This year the surcharge rose to Bt5,000 a ton. "You can guess that this is a good enough reason for the businessmen to want to get rid of us," said Tin Aung.

Despite their latest military setback, Mon leaders said they believe it is only a matter of time before they regain their stronghold. "At the moment, the logistics supply is a big problem for the Burmese [who have to depend on airdrops]. We also know the area so well that with repeated attacks it will be impossible for the enemy to retain their hold," Tin Aung said.

But the Thai authorities' plan to send 5,000 Mon civilian refugees [who made their way over the border during the fighting] to Burma soon will probably complicate matters for the rebels.

Sources said once these civilians return to Burma, they will have no choice but to begin trading with the controlling Burmese forces.

Transport Minister Receives Asia, Pacific Commission

42000049B Rangoon *THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY* in English 27 Feb 90 p 7

[Text] Yangon, 26 Feb—Minister for Transport & Communications and for Social Welfare and for Labour Maj-Gen Tin Tun received a six-member mission headed by Mr Vladimir Micholayevich Timopeyev of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, at the Ministry of Transport & Communications, Office of the Ministers, at 2 pm today.

Talks on matters relating to transport and communications in connection with Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994 were held at the meeting.

Director-General of Road Transport Administration Department U Khin Maung Than, Director-General of Transport and Communication Planning and Operation Department U Khin Maung Aye and Officer on Special Duty at the Ministry of Transport & Communications Lt-Col Kyaw Than were also present on the occasion.

Insurgent Leader on Military Operations

90OG0144A Bangkok *KHAO PHASET* in Thai 19-25 Feb 90 pp 32, 33

[Interview with Swe Chin, leader of the New Mon State Party on 9 Feb 90, place not given]

[Text] [KHAO PHASET] What is your view of the present Burmese Army offensive?

[Swe Chin] We will resist as hard as we can to the last drop of blood because this is not right. At present there is a small group in Burma which is providing support, and there are groups in many countries which sympathize with us.

[KHAO PHASET] Are there any countries which support the Mon party and the Mon Army?

[Swe Chin] The well-known people who support us, such as Senators Moynihan and Solarz, support us by opposing the military regime in Rangoon. They generally provide moral support and help apply diplomatic pressure to the Burmese government. At this point we still have not received assistance in the form of weapons or money. But there might be some in the future depending on the pressure the New Mon Party can apply to the regime in Rangoon.

[KHAO PHASET] It has been learned that the Burmese Army has now siezed the border outpost at the Three Pagodas Pass. What will you do about this?

[Swe Chin] The Burmese government has tried to suppress us for more than 40 years. It has not been successful. One day soon we will be victorious.

[KHAO PHASET] Is it true that in another sector the Karen Army has withdrawn and left an opening for Burma to outflank the Mon Army and attack from the rear?

[Swe Chin] That is correct.

[KHAO PHASET] Is what has been said true that on the night of 8 February Burma moved its forces in many trucks through Thai territory to attack the Mon Army from the rear?

[Swe Chin] This is definitely true. Approximately one company of theirs passed through Thai territory. But it was not positioned there. It passed through and returned to Burma through the border outpost at the Three Pagodas Pass in order to attack us in the rear. At present we have encircled them.

[KHAO PHASET] Has this caused the Mon forces to withdraw to Thai territory?

[Swe Chin] We have not withdrawn to Thailand. Our forces are still in territory under the sovereignty of Burma.

[KHAO PHASET] Did you know that the Burmese Army will stage a major attack tonight? What preparations have you made to counter this?

[Swe Chin] We have learned of this and are prepared to confront the situation.

[KHAO PHASET] I would like to know the specific number of Burmese troops involved, and please specify the regiment and division from which they were mobilized.

[Swe Chin] They are from the 44th and 66th divisions at Mokaniang and Ko Kret. They number more than 10 battalions. Presently there are more than 60 GMC trucks carrying Burmese soldiers in this direction.

[KHAO PHASET] Are you worried about this?

[Swe Chin] We are not worried at all. We have resisted Burma for more than 40 years. We have many locations from which we can fight back.

[KHAO PHASET] Is the NDF [political] front now providing assistance in this war?

[Swe Chin] They are resisting in their own area. The Khachin, Karen, and Pha-o are all resisting in their own areas. But we do receive moral support from Thai people of eastern Mon lineage. Each year thousands of people come to give their moral support. If people from the two sides, from the eastern side and the western side, had not given their support, we probably would not have been able to resist for 40 years like this.

[KHAO PHASET] I would like to know what the situation is with logging along the border.

[Swe Chin] Because logging provided a great advantage, the Burmese forces have been able to press through to the Thai border easily.

[KHAO PHASET] Would you please clarify this question?

[Swe Chin] In politics there are no true friends or permanent enemies. Only interests are permanent. The logging business has allowed Burma, an old enemy of Thailand for hundreds of years, to make use of logging roads to come in here. These roads might be dangerous for Thailand also as in the past.

[KHAO PHASET] I understand that a road has been built from here to the city of Moulmein for transporting wood. Is this true?

[Swe Chin] It has not reached Moulmein, but it is being built. At present the Karen forces are trying to sabotage the machinery which is grading these roads in order to cut these Burmese transportation routes.

[KHAO PHASET] Does this mean that Burma uses these roads to transport troops?

[Swe Chin] Definitely. General Bomia told me that the Karen forces intend to destroy the road building equipment to prevent Burmese forces from invading easily.

[KHAO PHASET] What do you think about the statement of the villagers that: "there is only one person who wants Burmese forces to establish a stronghold here and that is Sia H."

[Swe Chin] Yes, I have heard that. The people do not like this thaoke [Chinese businessman], "H." Some of the Burmese soldiers rode in his trucks.

[KHAO PHASET] Do you think he provides support for the Burmese Army?

[Swe Chin] If he did not provide support, he would not use his trucks to transport Burmese soldiers.

[KHAO PHASET] How many Burmese students are under your responsibility now?

[Swe Chin] About 400 to 500.

[KHAO PHASET] How does the Thai military assist your military?

[Swe Chin] They help by providing all the military clothing.

[KHAO PHASET] How do Taiwanese officials help?

[Swe Chin] They provide assistance funds. French officials assisted the student group 2 years ago. This group is also assisted by the overseas Burmese.

[KHAO PHASET] Will there be a Mon National Day celebration tomorrow?

[Swe Chin] We have prepared a celebration as we do every year, but this year Burma intends to block it. Therefore we will celebrate it on a smaller scale. But it will probably not be possible for Thai of Mon lineage to join in this year.

Profit Tax Relaxed, Incentive for Greater Investments

42000049D Rangoon *THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY* in English 26 Feb 90 p 6

[Text] Yangon, 25 Feb—The Ministry of Planning & Finance, under its Notification No 22, has relaxed the profit tax on value of money and property declared on own free will for greater investments by private sector.

Altogether 99 persons put up declaration forms between 19 and 23 February and the declared value totalled K 35.87 million, it is learnt. The tax-payers have been relieved by at least K 8.967 million.

After the Notification had been issued, 140 persons put declaration forms between 13 and 23 February and the declared value totalled K 54-76 million.

According to the Notification, directives have been sent to Internal Revenue Department in the whole country not to question those who come to make declaration on money and property but to assist them readily. The Internal Revenue Departments in the whole country are providing assistance to tax payers, it is learnt.

Trade Ministry Sets Rules on Palm Oil Distribution

42000049A Rangoon *THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY* in English 28 Feb 90 p 12

[Text] Yangon, 27 Feb—The palm oil imported by the General Merchandise Trading of the Ministry of Trade will be distributed as soon as possible to the consumer public in yangon Division. Under the arrangement made by Yangon Division Supervision Committee for Bringing Down Commodity Prices, the oil will be sold beginning 1 March through co-operative welfare shops and Tatmadaw special shops. This was revealed by Chairman of Yangon Division Supervision Committee for Bringing Down Commodity Price Col Kyaw Min at the committee's meeting held at the City Hall at 2:30 pm today.

Present on the occasion were Yangon Division Supervision Committee for Bringing Down Commodity Prices Chairman Col Kyaw Min, members Col Ket Sein, Col Khin Latt, Col Sein Lwin and Secretary Col Maung Maung, regional representatives, Yangon Division Co-operative Department Head, representatives from

Township Law and Order Restoration Councils, Township Co-operative Department Heads and responsible personnel from Co-operative Welfare Shops and Tadmaw Welfare shops.

At the meeting Col Kyaw Min spoke on the need for compiling accurate statistics so that the palm oil will be regularly and speedily distributed. The committee Secretary Col Maung Maung explained in detail how the edible oil will be distributed. Those present at the meeting also took part in the discussion.

One viss of palm oil will be sold to families without a government servant. The price will be K 41 per viss in all the townships. The ministries concerned will sell oil to families with government servants.

Sugarcane Farmers To Study Growing Methods in Thailand

42000049C Rangoon *THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY* in English 27 Feb 90 p 6

[Excerpts] Yangon, 26 Feb—Minister for Industry (1) and for Industry (2) Maj-Gen Sein Aung met with seven sugarcane farmers who are going to Thailand to study sugarcane farming, in the meeting room of the Ministry of Industry (1) at 10 am today. [passage omitted]

Minister Maj-Gen Sein Aung said: "Since you sugarcane farmers are the ones who actually and practically grow sugarcane, you will be sent to Thailand to study the sugarcane growing systems of Thailand. This measure is taken under the personal directive of Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council General Saw Maung. When you sugarcane farmers go to Thailand, it is necessary for you to study the scientific farming methods of Thai sugarcane farmers, the use of farming implements, the systematic use of chemical fertilizers and to study the living standard and lives of the Thai sugarcane farmers. It is also necessary to bring home the techniques which will be useful for the country. By doing this, it will be beneficial to your country and to you, as well." [passage omitted]

SLORC Discussed Purchase, Transportation of Paddy

42000045A Rangoon *THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY* in English 7 Feb 90 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] Yangon, 6 Feb—State Law and Order Restoration Council Members [passage omitted] today went by helicopters to Ma-ubin, Myoungmya and Patheingyi in Ayeyarwady Division and coordinated with the local people matters relating to paddy purchase and smooth transportation. [passage omitted]

They were welcomed on arrival by Township Zone Law and Order Restoration Council Chairman Lt-Col Tin Tun and the chairmen of Township LORCs within the Township Zone. [passage omitted]

At the meeting, Minister Maj-Gen Phone Myint, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Ye Kyaw, Minister Col Abel and Secretary 2 Brig-Gen Tin Oo made speeches. They said: "We come here to find out the success or otherwise of the work we are implementing and the problems being encountered. The stability in the price of our staple food of rice is needed for the welfare of the people and the stability of commodity prices. It is important for the price of rice to be stable in Ayeyarwady because the Division is a major rice-producing division. Although rice may be sold freely in a free market, it should be sold at reasonable prices so that the people will be able to consume it at reasonable prices and that rice traders will have sufficient profit. Now rice price is not stable. I want you to frankly tell me what difficulties you encounter in the purchase and distribution of rice. The State is ready to give you any necessary assistance."

Next, Agricultural Produce Trading managers and Co-operative Department heads in Ma-ubin Township Zone and responsible personnel from Joint Venture Corporation 2 frankly discussed the situation of rice purchase and distribution in the area, the programme for buying rice and the problems now being faced. Continuing Ma-ubin Township Zone Law and Order Restoration Council Chairman Lt-Col Tin Tun and chairmen of Township Law and Order Restoration Councils presented the situation of rice purchase and distribution and other necessary matters.

Joint Venture Corporation 2 Chairman U Chone Sein and Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading Managing Director U Toe Kyi explained the purchase of rice by the Joint Venture Corporation and other necessary matters.

Next, the Secretary 2 and Minister for Trade coordinated necessary matters.

Then State Law and Order Restoration Council members, Ministers and party, accompanied by Ma-ubin Township Zone and Township Law and Order Restoration Council Members inspected Ma-ubin Town Development works by cars and proceeded to Myoungmya by helicopters.

No sooner had they arrived at Ma-ubin then the State Law and Order Restoration Council members and ministers met with Township Zone Law and Order Restoration Council Chairman Cmdr Soe Hlaing (Navy) and party, chairmen of Township Law and Order Restoration Councils in the Township Zone, Township Zone and Township level departmental personnel, responsible personnel from Township Co-operative Society and Joint Venture Corporation 2, rice mill owners and rice traders at Mya Shwewar Hall in Myoungmya.

At the meeting Minister Col Abel dwelt on rice purchase and Secretary (2) Brig-Gen Tin Oo said that they wanted to know the implementation situation of the four major tasks, rice purchase situation and the problems they faced and that he wanted them to frankly discuss the matters.

Next, the manager of the Myoungmya Township Zone Agricultural Produce Trading, the head of the Township

Co-operative Department and the personnel in charge of the Township Zone of the Joint Venture Corporation No 2 presented reports on the situation of buying paddy, situation of buying rice and their work experiences and Chairman of the Joint Venture Corporation No 2 U Chone Sein reported that the joint venture corporation in buying rice and paddy did not do so with the price fixed from the central, but is doing so according to the current price after co-ordinating with the Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading, the co-operative and the farmers of the region and made arrangements to distribute them to the public at reasonable prices.

Secretary (2) Brig-Gen Tin Oo and Minister Col Abel explained matters relating to the State's economic policy and the measures to be taken in buying and distributing rice and paddy. They also spoke on matters relating to the political, economic and administrative situation of the State and co-ordinated on the measures to be taken.

The Members of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, Ministers and party arrived in Patheingyi in helicopters at 2 pm and were welcomed by Chairman of the Ayeyarwady Division LORC Commander of the South-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Aung and responsible officials.

Later at 3 pm, Members of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, Ministers and party had discussions at the Divisional LORC meeting hall on matters relating to the buying of rice and paddy and distribution work with members of the Divisional and Patheingyi Township Zone LORCs, the chairmen of the Yegyi, Kyonpyaw, Kyounggonn, Ngapudaw, Tharaboung, Patheingyi East and Patheingyi West Township LORCs, departmental personnel, co-operative society and officials of the Joint Venture Corporation No 2, rice mill owners and rice traders.

At the discussions, Secretary (2) Brig-Gen Tin Oo and Minister Col Abel delivered opening speeches. The Divisional Manager of the Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading, the Ayeyarwady Division Joint Venture Corporation No 2 Chairman, representatives of the Hinthada Township Zone and Maubin Township Zone Rice Millers Associations, the Deputy Divisional Manager of the Joint Venture Corporation No 2 and the Secretary of the Divisional Syndicate of Township Co-operative Societies presented work progress reports on the situation of buying rice and paddy, the programmes to be carried out and the difficulties encountered by them.

Minister Col Abel then explained matters relating to the change in the policy of the Government in connection with rice and paddy and delivered an address. He said, "At present, according to the open-door economic

policy, permission is given to carry out free trade in rice and paddy and it is necessary to do so in accordance with the three basic principles on trade of the State. As the Myanmar rice is again fetching a good price in world market, the price of rice and paddy should not be much higher than the price sold in the world market. The Government has paved the way to export rice legally and therefore rice should be exported only through the legal channel. The prevailing price of rice has risen without any sound reasons due to the fact that priority is being given to getting profits only. The price should be the one in which the majority of the people will be able to buy, the one which could penetrate the world market and that which will benefit the farmers. We are providing assistance to the Joint Venture Corporation No 2 which is based on the rice millers associations in order to get lasting trade structures. If all make concerted efforts on equal basis then the price will become stable again. [quotation marks as published]

Next, the Secretary (2) delivered the concluding address. He said, "This year rice was cultivated on more acres of land compared to the previous year and the yield is also good. The Government has also bought sufficient quantity of rice and paddy in advance through the Agricultural Produce Trading and there should be no anxiety about rice and paddy due to the rumours spread. Effective action would be taken to curb the export of rice through illegal means by those who are taking advantage of the permission given for trading rice and paddy freely. The Agricultural Produce Trading, JVC(2) and the co-operatives are to consult and co-ordinate in buying rice at the prevailing price in the respective regions. There is also the need to carry out the work correctly and efficiently and in an effective manner like true traders. Some rice traders and rice mill owners who fail to abide by the rules and regulations laid down and only seek self-interests will be educated to carry out their work within the bounds of law and appropriate action will be taken against them. As the price of commodities will become stable only if the price of rice becomes stable, it is necessary for those engaged in trading rice to see to the interests of the public rather than their own interests. This will not only benefit the farmers but will also be convenient for the consuming public to buy rice at reasonable price." He then elaborated on the changes made in political, economic and administrative system of the State.

The co-ordination meeting concluded at 5 pm and the Members of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and Ministers went round Patheingyi in motor vehicles and inspected the town development activities; measures taken to keep the township clean and tidy and beautifying it to make it a town befitting the capital town of the Division and also social development activities and left for Yangon, arriving in Yangon at 6 pm.—MNA

STATE OF CAMBODIA

Koh Kong Official Comments on Timber Resources, Exploitation

42000051A Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
4 Mar 90 p 11

[Text] While Thailand is currently facing a severe shortage of logs as a result of the severe deforestation that prompted the nation-wide cancellation of logging concessions, its eastern neighbour, Cambodia, is attracting envious glances with 80-90 per cent of its forests remaining relatively untouched.

At present, logging in Cambodia is virtually free of restrictions—whoever wants to fell trees, can fell them. Whoever wants to trade logs, can trade. A forestry officials in Salae Amble district remarked that logging would be much more intensive if it was not for the fear of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge guerilla forces.

In a recent session of the Cambodian parliament, commercial logging was one of the items on the agenda for discussion. According to Sei Phomkeson, the representative member for Koh Kong province, the ease with which logging can be conducted means that it has become largely the preserve of bureaucrats or wealthy businessmen.

Local residents fell trees and sell the logs to district or provincial forestry authorities who collect the logs until they have a sufficient quantity to sell to sawmills or foreign businessmen.

Cambodia exports logs to several countries, mostly to Singapore, Japan, Taiwan and some Socialist countries such as Vietnam and the Soviet Union. The logs are used as a medium of exchange in the rush to buy foreign manufactured goods—often meaning weapons.

Because logging is so free of restrictions, the forests, Cambodia's prime natural resource, is being extravagantly exploited. Superior grade wood is used to make charcoal or simply wasted at the sawmills by careless processing.

However, a high-ranking official said that Cambodia does have some reserved forest areas, such as those surrounding the sources of rivers. Yet this category also includes, through default, virgin areas of forest that have never heard the buzz of chainsaws. "In the future we will have logging concession. But that means when the country has no wars and lives in peace," said the official, who preferred to remain anonymous.

Most of the trees that are felled are usually around 50-80 years old and come from thick jungle beyond the reach of most transportation.

Cambodia has no teak; the majority of wood taken from the forests is Para, Hopea, Ormosia and Pterocarpus. Logging by foreign concerns is active in Koh Kong, Kham Pong Soem, and Kham Pong Thom provinces.

Yet the logging industry in Cambodia is still at an early stage. A huge amount of timber remains and the forests are still fertile. The sawmills in most towns are small affairs and the majority of workers in the shipyards are Thai.

The cost of running a sawmill in Cambodia is minimal in comparison to Thailand. The annual tax is very low at around Bt10,000—in Thailand the figure leaps dramatically to Bt400,000-500,000 annually with an additional monthly tax to be paid as well.

Previously, Thai businessmen seeking to import Cambodian timber had to effect the deal through a third country, Singapore. This has now changed. But the present regulations on the logging trade with Thailand now allow the direct import of logs from Cambodia with only a minimal one percent taxation.

Thai Deputy Interior Minister Snoh Tienthong was among those who had formerly received a Cambodian logging concession, although his business flourished before Cambodian premier Maj Gen Lon Nol was overthrown by Pol Pot in 1975. The main transportation route used to run through Prachin Buri. However, the sporadic and uncertain war being fought along the Thai-Cambodian border has effectively ended this trade.

Nonetheless, Cambodian Defence Minister Maj Gen Tia Bun, asserted that the present Cambodian government has a policy of direct (logging) trading with Thailand. Timber, he said, will be exchanged for essential goods.

"But this means that the war is over," he said.

The first Thai businessman to import logs from Cambodia after the "third country" restriction was lifted (in the wake of Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan's proposition to turn the battlefields of the region into a "market place") was Thanit Traivudhi, Chat Thai MP for the eastern border province of Trad, who dealt directly with the Cambodian government.

Most of his logs are imported from Koh Kong and Kham Pong Soem through Trad along route number 10. The business contact was made with the Cambodian government.

However, the present Thai-Cambodian logging business is sluggish, with supply outstripping demand. There are too many sellers and too few buyers, mainly because the majority of Thai buyers still have to purchase through agencies which inflates the cost of the logs.

But this situation may well change, and change soon. By the middle of this year many believe Thailand will face a domestic timber shortage as a result of the cancellation of the logging concessions. Hence, the attention of Thai businessmen and entrepreneurs is turning to Cambodia. How long Cambodia will be able to match her forest reserves off against a desperate need for foreign currency is a question that no one wants to ask.

Joint Singapore Military Cooperation

90OG0145D Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian
26 Feb 90 p 12

[Text] On Sunday [25 February] Singapore's First Deputy Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong stated that Singapore will increase its cooperation with neighboring countries, such as, Malaysia and Indonesia. Mentioned as a potential area of cooperation was military cooperation, such as, an increase in joint military exercises among the three countries, as well as further economic cooperation.

The Reuters news agency did not go into the details of Goh's statement, which was made at the close of the convention of the People's Action Party (PAP), which rules Singapore. Goh, often mentioned as the prime candidate to succeed Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, only touched on the latest developments connected with the fate of American military bases in the Philippines.

"I am less optimistic than I was last year that the Philippine government will renew its leasing agreement for American military bases in that country," said Goh. He said that if American military bases are closed, a new regional force will replace the United States. Japan is the new force that will take over that role in full.

No details were given on whether the need for an increase in military cooperation between Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia was to anticipate the possible rise of such a new force. Indonesia itself is reported to be making military facilities available for Singapore in Pekanbaru, Riau (KOMPAS 16 February).

Soenarso, Indonesia's ambassador to Malaysia, said in an interview in Kuala Lumpur that Malaysia is distrustful of improved relations between Indonesian and Singapore. However, Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba stated that the availability of those military facilities poses no threat to Malaysia, even though there have been various problems from time to time between Indonesia and Malaysia.

Soenarso added that facilities were made available in Pekanbaru because Indonesia does not see Singapore as a threat. Indonesia wants to maintain good relations with Singapore for trade and economic reasons.

Last August Singapore openly declared that it is prepared to offer military bases to the United States in order to support the American military presence in the region. Singapore sees the United States as a stabilizing force. Singapore's actions are also aimed at making the Philippines, as the landlord of America's Subic and Clark bases as well as four smaller support bases, play a less important role.

The United States has had problems in discussions aimed at extending the lease on their Philippine military bases, which will end in September 1991. American Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, who visited the Philippines last week, did not achieve any progress in

discussions about the fate of these two American bases. The Philippines demanded a high rent, and there is a Filipino nationalist group which views the presence of those bases on Philippine soil as an encroachment on Filipino sovereignty.

President Urges Preservation of National Resilience

90OG0145B Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN
in Indonesian 28 Feb 90 p 6

[Text] No less a person than President Suharto has urged our people to raise objections and suggestions if they find out about things in our society which are not quite right. During a meeting with a farmers' group in Sido Makmur, Belitang County, South Sumatra last Saturday [24 February], the president said, "In our democratic world if there are things which are not quite right, you can raise objections and make suggestions. Don't just remain quiet."

President Suharto's statement is really a relief. That's why we think that his statement was directed at all members of our society, especially to the government agencies which play a large role in development even though it was only expressed to a group of farmers.

President Suharto's statement is even more relevant if it is connected to the stages of national development. In the coming years we are going to embark on the take-off process in national development as an implementation of PANCASILA [Five Principles of the Nation]. And so we are going to face new problems, new aspirations, new forces and a new dynamic. And that isn't all. Swift scientific and technical developments demand that we anticipate and predict accurately what is ahead on the basis of social reality.

The active participation of all our people is required. By active participation we mean the willingness of people to raise objections about situations which are not quite right and at the same time to put forward suggestions or alternatives to help solve particular problems. It would be far better for us to raise objections than to make statements about things or situations which are not real. In fact, a situation can be fatal if people take the attitude of not wanting to know about it or are antipathetic toward the situations which they face in their social, national or state lives.

In fact, the president's statement can also be interpreted to mean that in the present era of development, especially in the face of the coming years which are full of changes and challenges, we must avoid all cliches. This means that we must be willing to face reality no matter how bitter it is. A lack of curiosity or closing our eyes to a situation and pretending that growing and developing social problems do not exist can be dangerous.

In this connection we agree with Prof Dr Mubyarto, who has said that the experts should not feel uncomfortable about discussing the problem of poverty, especially rural

poverty, in our country. Statistics show that about 20.3 million people in the villages are still living in poverty, even though it must be admitted that this number is decreasing yearly. As President Suharto said in his State of the Union message to a plenary session of the DPR-RI [Parliament] on 16 August 1989, 20.3 million villagers, or 16.4 percent of the population, were living below the poverty line in 1987. This figure was lower than the 1976 figure of 23.9 million.

In the 70's it was taboo to discuss the problem of poverty. As a result, this reluctance to discuss the problem or pretending that it didn't exist was noticeable in connection with national development. It meant that the field situation was all settled as soon as instructions came down from above. But in fact estimates and anticipations were often wrong. This is understandable since it was believed that we were already prosperous. In fact, at that time people had the impression that to talk about the problem of poverty was to admit that development had failed.

In short, a lack of frankness or willingness to say that things or situations are as they really are must be avoided because such attitudes are not helpful for development. The more important meaning behind the president's speech is that no one, whether he is a low- or a high-ranking official, should become embarrassed, angry or emotional when he faces an unpleasant situation in his field. This is the way it should be because our nation is based on principles of togetherness and close family relations.

Political Discussions of ABRI's Dual Function Resurfacing

90OG0137A Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian
17 Feb 90 p 25

[By Rustam F. Mandayun]

[Text] The dual function of ABRI [Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia] has suddenly become the subject of discussion again. The reason: Djodjok Rahardjo's letter, carried in the column "Your Letters" of the daily MEDIA INDONESIA on 3 February. "People tend to confuse the dual function with the temporary assignment of military personnel to civilian positions. The majority don't understand, because there hasn't been any explanation; others understand but are probably pretending that they don't," said the chief of ABRI's Information Center, Brigadier-General Nurhadi in the Journalists' Hall of ABRI Headquarters, Cilangkap, on Monday.

Djodjok, in "Your Letters," desires proof of the accuracy of the statement made by ABRI Commander General Try Sutrisno, which among other things asserted that the Armed Forces do not wish to dominate all activities of the country's administration. In order to achieve this aim, Djodjok, whose address was not mentioned, suggested that the ABRI commander reduce the number of ABRI personnel who hold the post of regional head,

since the posts of district head, sub-district head, or chief of a cluster of villages could be filled by graduates of the Civil Service Academy.

"Competing for civil positions is not one of the ways to implement ABRI's dual function; actually, these positions can be handled adequately by civil personnel," writes Djodjok. If dual function means "competing for civil positions," Djodjok concludes, this can give rise to frustration in civil service circles.

Nurhadi confirmed that ABRI is not going to dominate all the activities of the nation's administrative apparatus. As proof, he cited the following: in 1948, when President Sukarno and Vice President Hatta were arrested by the Dutch, Commander-in-Chief Sudirman carried on the struggle using guerilla tactics. At the close of the guerilla phase, Sudirman handed the leadership back to the civil authorities. Major-General Suharto did likewise, once he had succeeded in putting down the G30S-PKI [30 September 1965 Movement-Communist Party of Indonesia]. "At that time, if he had wanted to, he could just as well have arrogated to himself full power. But the fact of the matter is that he surrendered this power to the Provisional People's Consultative Council so that this body could choose a president," said Nurhadi, by way of providing evidence that ABRI has never attempted to seize civil authority.

According to Nurhadi, as far as the status of ABRI personnel who hold civil posts is concerned, there is no connection with the dual function. "The dual function has no connection with civil service posts," he continued. Nurhadi insisted that ABRI had never nominated one of its active-duty officers as a candidate for governor, mayor, or district head. Up till now, the choice of regional heads has always been by means of nominations from each of the factions in the DPRD [regional parliaments or assemblies]. If the person selected is a member of ABRI who is still on active duty, approval must first be requested from ABRI headquarters. "Thus, their presence in a civil government post is not because of ABRI's power, but because of necessity," Nurhadi said.

Nurhadi went on to say that ABRI had never aimed to occupy particular positions. On the contrary, it had always proceeded on the basis of requests made, and qualifications desired. The dual function, he said, is ABRI's spirit of commitment to struggle, together with the people, to achieve the national goal: A just and prosperous society, one that is secure and tranquil, based on Pancasila and the Constitution of 1945. This commitment will never end.

Nurhadi further insisted that the dual function has no connection with power and militarism. Under militarism, the military people in power would apply military laws. Throughout its history, ABRI had never pursued power, but had always been concerned that a just, prosperous, and tranquil society be achieved. "Once this is achieved, ABRI will be able to conserve its manpower," he said. Nurhadi also quoted ABRI Commander

Try Sutrisno's clarification concerning the temporary assignment of military people to civil posts: The more stable social-political conditions and national development are, the fewer ABRI personnel there will be serving in civil government agencies.

In a working meeting with Commission I of the DPR-RI [the Indonesian Parliament] last Wednesday, the commander of the Armed Forces also explained the dual function, which was described by him as a subsystem of the panoply of the nation's wealth. "There are still many people who feel that the dual function is only a matter of military personnel being given assignments to civil government positions," he said.

Establishment of New Strategic Research Institute Announced

90OG0137B Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian
10 Feb 90 p 16

[Text] Indonesia is going to have a new institute for strategic studies. The organizers are clearly high-ranking military officers and government officials, alumni of the National Defense Institute (LEMHANAS). The new institute, similar to CSIS (Center for Strategic and International Studies), is called Institute of Strategic Studies of Indonesia (LPSI).

General chairman of the Board of Directors of LPSI, or ISSI (Institute of Strategic Studies of Indonesia) is Home Affairs Minister, General (Retired) Rudini. Minister for Political and Security Affairs Sudomo is chairman of the Founders Council, and Minister of Public Welfare Suparjo Rustam is chairman of the Board of Trustees.

"As we all know, everyone is free to set up an institute and to conduct research on various issues, which can be used as input for the government. In fact, it is the government that has urged the people to provide many inputs," said Rudini, who is also chairman of the Union of LEMHANAS Alumni (IKAL).

Indeed, the new institute is closely related to IKAL. As a matter of fact, according to Rudini, LPSI was founded in order to make good use of the resources represented by LEMHANAS alumni, now numbering more than 1,000. "It would be a pity if the able minds of these LEMHANAS alumni were not to be made use of," said Rudini.

The LPSI founders council comprises 17 individuals, all of them alumni of LEMHANAS. In addition to Rudini and Sudomo, other high-ranking officers are Army Chief of Staff General Edi Sudradjat, Navy Chief of Staff Rear Admiral Muhamad Arifin, Air Force Chief of Staff Marshal Oetomo, ABRI Social-Political Affairs Chief Lieutenant-General Harsudiyono Hartas, Chief of the ABRI General Staff Rear Admiral Soedibyo Rahardjo. There are also high-ranking government officials, among others Minister of Information Harmoko, Jakarta Governor Wiyogo Atmodarminto, former Governor of LEMHANAS Soebijakto Prawirasoebrata, entrepreneur and leading Golkar figure Baramuli, and other prominent personalities.

Armed Forces Commander General Try Sutrisno and Minister of Defense and Security L. B. Murdani are not included on the list of names of council members. "That's because they are not LEMHANAS alumni," said Soebijakto. The institute is definitely a private organization, and is managed by an LPSI foundation. Its aim is not political in nature, especially with reference to the General Session of the 1993 MPR. It is also not intended to compete with CSIS.

Plans for the formation of LPSI were discussed by Rudini with President Suharto last October. "The president was very much in agreement with the idea, and when I was received by him in November, he provided guidelines as to what he desired from the institute that would be of use to the government," said Soebijakto Prawirasoebrata, chief executive of LPSI. LPSI, he said, has its distinctive characteristics, because its approach is national defense. "So its product must take the form of policies that will be proposed to the government leadership, or to whoever needs this kind of input," he said.

The work of the LPSI will resemble that of LEMHANAS, which was established in 1965. LEMHANAS, which is directly under the Armed Forces commander, carries out studies that are broad in scope. Its outputs are forwarded to the government. LEMHANAS also has the task of preparing civil servants, members of ABRI, and since 1975, people from the private sector, to assume national leadership positions.

Thus LPSI, as a private institute, will function more loosely and independently. "LEMHANAS belongs to the government, while LPSI is a non-governmental organization. Furthermore, the amount of time available to LEMHANAS is not enough for it to be able to study all issues," said Soebijakto.

Actually, LPSI has been in existence since 10 November 1989. But up to now the institute has still not carried out any research. In the very near future, said Soebijakto, the existence of LPSI, which has its offices on the second floor of the Indosat Building on Merdeka Barat Street, will be formally announced to the public, once this has been reported to the president. "Because after all, there are quite a number of high-ranking officials on its board of directors," he said.

Timor Gap Geology, Oil Potential

90OG0146C Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian
28 Feb 90 p 10

[By Hardi Prasetyo, Geologist at the Oceanic Geology Development Center]

[Text] In December 1989, the Governments of Indonesia and Australia signed an agreement on zones of cooperation in the region south of the Timor Trough known as the Eastern Timor Gap (shortened to Timor Gap). The agreement prompted responses from the public through

a number of newspapers. The aspect provoking controversy was the conjecture that hydrocarbon reserves may be found in the Timor Gap.

East Indonesia Geotectonic Structure

Under a new geotectonic concept, East Indonesia is located at the point of convergence of three main plates of the earth's crust. The Eurasian Plate is on the west, and on the south the Indian Ocean-Australia Plate is moving to the north. On the north, the Philippine Sea-Pacific Ocean Plate is moving somewhat to the northwest. Because of this geodynamic process, it is not surprising that East Indonesia's geologic situation is somewhat more complex than that of West Indonesia.

Under this geotectonic arrangement, the Indian Ocean-Australia Plate thrusts against the bottom of the Eurasian Plate. South of Timor to Irian Jaya, the Australian continental crust and shelf sediments are involved in this thrust system, forming a collision complex between the Australian continental margin and the Banda Islands arc. This collision, which is estimated to have begun 3 million years ago, is in its initial stage.

Although the thrusting of the continental crust under the island arc can be observed throughout the Timor Trough, its mechanism is still one of the problems of geology. There are three morphotectonic elements involved in the collision process in the Timor zone: the northwest margin of the Australian continent, the Timor Trough, and the outer arc ridge that forms the islands of Sawu, Timor, Tanimbar, etc.

The Australian continental margin on the outer part of the Timor Trough consists of a succession of sediments reaching a total thickness of more than 6 kilometers. The series of sediments is associated with underthrusts to the north by the Australian continental plate along the length of the Timor-Arafura Trough. North of the Timor Trough is a collision complex that is the result of tectonic layering (accretion) of sediments from the Australian continent and from the Timor Trough itself.

Australian Shelf

The continental shelf northwest of Australia has an old formation history (600 million years ago) under the tectonic extension regime. Repeated extension processes caused the formation of a geologic structure that divides this shelf zone into several platforms and sedimentation basins separated one from the other by earlier faults.

The process of detaching a continent, followed by the formation of a new ocean, played a role in the formation of a passive continental margin, which was marked by the movement of a divergent lithospheric plate. In this connection, the passive margin of the Australian continent is associated with thick (6-kilometer) deposits of sediment containing thick shelf limestone, which geologically is very good as hydrocarbon pool stone. For that reason, the region has been much explored.

Timor Trough

The Timor-Aru Trough, the deepest part of the Timor Gap, has an ocean depth of more than 2,000 meters and extends east to west. The Timor Trough is the place where the Australian margin underthrusts the Island of Timor and is usually referred to as a deformation front. The southern slope of the trough is occupied by the passive margin of the Australian continent, while the northern part is occupied by accumulations of deformed sediment originally from the Australian margin plus sediment from the trough.

Timor Ridge

The Timor-Aru ridge is said to be the direct result of a collision process between the Australian margin and the island arc. This zone was formed by an accretion of sediment from the passive margin of the Australian continent and sediment from the Timor Trough. Slices of the Australian continental margin (in various sizes) and sediment from the Timor Trough was restructured into an accumulation of rock, which was then covered again by post-accretion sediments (generally referred to as molasse-type sediments).

The process in the Timor Trough is analogous to what is now under way in the Sunda Trench south of Java, where the Indian Ocean crust is thrusting throughout the length of the Sunda Trench. This constant deformation activity is causing a migration of the Timor Ridge toward the south (toward Australia).

The process and evolution around the Timor Trough can be considered analogous to a normal thrust system (the thrusting of an ocean crust along a trench), which is here a forward arc consisting of material sliced from the thrusting ocean plate. On the other hand, in the case of the Timor Trough, it is the continental crust that is thrusting throughout the length of the relatively shallow trough. Because the continental crust is generally covered, however, by thick sediment that is relatively soft and layered well, it can be easily sliced from the thrusting continental shelf.

Hydrocarbon Potential

Generally, there are four prerequisites for possible existence of hydrocarbons in an area: (1) the existence of primary rock containing organic material; (2) the existence of pool rock (reservoir) with good pores to enable hydrocarbon flow; (3) the existence of a trap (whether structural or stratigraphic) for accumulating petroleum; and, (4) a covering layer, or barrier, to prevent the loss of petroleum from the reservoir rock to the surface. To these four prerequisites should be added enough heat

from the earth to cook organic material in the primary rock to convert it to hydrocarbon form and cause migration to the reservoir rock.

Geologically, the northwest Australian shelf possesses these four prerequisites. More than 50 exploration wells have been drilled in the area, most of them concentrated in the Bonaparte Gulf basin, south of the Timor Sea and the Arafura Sea. Most of the wells were dry, but some of them produced gas.

Thus, oil reserves with economic value have not been found in the Timor Gap area. The possibilities are: (1) The cooking process did not occur; (2) petroleum has gone to the surface; or, (3) drilling has not yet been done in the best place.

Although a clear potential for oil and natural gas has not yet been demonstrated, oil has been produced in the Bula field on Seram in the Banda Arc area. The reservoir is unique (not general), consisting of post-tectonic rock of Pleio-Pleistocene age. In this connection, source rock is thought to have come from a series of thrusts under Seram by the Australian shelf. Oil seepages have been found in Timor and Tanimbar, but dozens of wells in western and eastern Timor have not yet provided meaningful prospects.

Conclusion

The Timor Gap area to the south of Timor was formed by the passive margin of the Australian continent, which has a great geologic age (600 million years). The mechanism for the formation and development of the Australian margin by divergence or extension, which is associated with the formation or birth of the Indian Ocean, provides several geological implications for hydrocarbons: the formation of several subbasins controlled by faults occurring in various tectonic periods, and the formation of a series of sediments that are relatively thick and possess varying compositions and physical characteristics.

Viewed from the geological aspect, the four main prerequisites for the existence of hydrocarbons are found in the Australian shelf system. Hydrocarbons formed during old periods may have moved to the surface, and the targeted reservoir rock is younger carbonate rock and sandstone (Tertiary). Although the prerequisites are fulfilled, the more than 50 exploration wells drilled in the Timor Gap area have shown a high rate of failure.

Through the Australia-Indonesia cooperation agreement, a new opportunity is presented for studying the Timor Trough area more carefully and thus provide important materials for determining regional boundaries in subsequent talks.

New Bank Planned for Poor

*90OG0146B Jakarta BISNIS INDONESIA
in Indonesian 25 Feb 90 p 1*

[Text] Jakarta (BISNIS)—Indonesia intends to set up a special bank for the poorest people, who so far have not been reached by any banking program. A pilot project is now under way.

"The amount of credit provided will be between 25,000 and 30,000 rupiah per person, with a grace period of 2 weeks and no requirement for collateral," said pilot project director Dr Chairil Rasahan.

Chairil, who was accompanied by a number of officers of the Indonesian Banking Development Institute (LPPI), revealed this yesterday in a lecture program sponsored by Prof Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh's Grameen Bank here.

The current pilot project is a joint effort by Bank Indonesia, the Department of Agriculture, and the Bogor Agricultural Institute (IPG), but the amount of capital being set aside for the new bank has not been confirmed.

Indonesia is trying to copy the Bangladesh bank, because it has an international reputation for its success in providing credit for people in thousands of villages.

The pilot project now in progress is a product of assistance from the Asian and Pacific Development Center (APDC). LPPI, on behalf of Bank Indonesia, has initiated the pilot project in Nanggung Subdistrict, Bogor, under the name of Self-Sufficient Enterprise.

According to Chairil, when a loan of about 30,000 rupiah is made to a customer, he must repay it in 52 weekly installments of 850 rupiah.

So far, 395,000 rupiah have been loaned to residents, and 50 million rupiah have been made available for the pilot project.

He said that after 3 months of lending money to residents of the hamlet Cibeber Kulon, Curugbitung Village, Nanggung Subdistrict, not one person has fallen behind in his payments.

Route 13 Construction, Swedish Aid, Resistance Sabotage

90OG0147D *Vientiane PASASON in Lao*
26 Feb 90 pp 2,4

[Excerpts] The cadres and workers of the South Route 13 Construction Enterprise, which is affiliated with the Ministry of Transportation, Posts and Construction, increased their revolutionary spirit when they undertook to build highway 13. This is a national highway, and it was assigned to the enterprise by the ministry as well as by our party and government. They permitted the construction to begin and also the paving of the southern section of the route, which begins at Ban Don Noun Village, Saithani District, Vientiane Municipality, kilometer marker 12 and extends to Pakkading, Pakkading District, Bolikhamxai Province, kilometer marker 198 at the foot of the Yuri Gagarin bridge. It is being built to international standards and according to the plans will be finished in 1993.

In 1989, which was the second year of construction, they were able to complete 100 percent of the plan for the year, which was to build and pave 25 km of road from kilometer marker 38 to kilometer marker 63 at Ban Hai Pak-ngoum Village at the foot of the Sithong Vilason bridge. They also built the Houai Saiphai bridge which was 15.5 meters long and the Houai Sang bridge; both are basically finished. They also laid some pipe. From 1988 to the present 45 km of south route 13 has been paved from kilometer marker 12 at Ban Don Noun Village to kilometer marker 63 at Ban Hai Pak-ngoum Village. The average cost of construction was 15 million kip per kilometer.

Comrade Ounheuan Vilaiphon, the director of the South Route 13 Construction Enterprise, told me that: "in the last year [passage omitted] the highway construction met difficulties in many areas resulting from requirements which were encountered in the technical area and from skill levels which were low. There was also loutleuntonkan [desertion], and construction materials and funds from the bank were not on time etc. The first was caused by the destruction and disruptions of the enemy and a number of bad groups among the people. Nevertheless the light of resolutions 5,6,7 and 8 of the fourth plenum of the party central committee, coming through the ministry with which the enterprise was affiliated, provided guidance and made matters more convenient in many areas. The Swedish Experts assigned to the project cooperated well: not only were they able to solve problems but they were also able to carry out duties delegated by upper echelons very well. The enterprise was independent in accord with the new system under which one earned according to one's production and production was organized by contracting with the production units. This system has improved the standard of living of the cadres and workers. For example the lowest salary is now 15,000 kip per month, and the highest is 45,000 kip per month. In addition there are rewards for outstanding cadres and workers. There is also an appropriate policy for sickness, vacations and family work. [passage omitted]

The plan for 1990 calls for raising the level of and paving 30 km of road from kilometer marker 63 (Ban Hai Pak-ngoum

Village) to kilometer marker 93 (Ban Thabok Village), Bolikhamxai Province. [passage omitted] The director of the enterprise said that: "[passage omitted] we must work [passage omitted] to improve the solidarity, cooperation and coordination with the regional administrative organizations and with the people according to the slogan: "the state and the people accomplish things together." In addition we must strive to cooperate well with the Swedish experts in order to learn from them and complete our duties. We must do everything we can to make sure this free assistance from Sweden to Laos is used effectively here in construction so that the friendship and economic cooperation between Laos and Sweden steadily increases; this is in keeping with the economic policies of our party and government regarding increasing outside cooperation and investment. The government of Sweden has agreed to provide free assistance to the LPDR for building the 120 km of highway 13 from Thabok to Paksan in 1991 and 1992.

Foreign-Funded, Australian-Built Sugar Refinery

90OG0147A *Vientiane PASASON in Lao* 20 Feb 90 p 2

[Article by Niti Saignseng]

[Excerpts] "The Paksap refinery for white sugar, which is affiliated with the service for industry and commerce of the Vientiane Municipality, is now completed. They are waiting to conduct a trial production run. Then they will hand over the keys. The date set for this is not far off. If everything goes as planned, it will be the end of February." This what Mr. Khanthali, a member of the administrative committee, told our group of reporters as he took us on a tour of the plant.

This refinery is valued at more than \$2.3 million. The funds for it were borrowed from international banks at an interest rate of 75 percent with the first 10 years excluded. An Australian company received the contract to build and set up the refinery. [passage omitted]

The refinery will be able to produce 2,000 tons of white sugar per year, which could equal one-fifth of this country's demand (just one Lao soft drink plant uses 500 tons).

In order to provide sugarcane for the refinery, they have begun to enter into two-way contracts with the people so that the people will handle the sugarcane production. The refinery will clear and prepare the land, provide the seed, and requisition the sugarcane at the price of 5,500 kip per ton at the refinery. The bank of the Vientiane Municipality will provide credit to encourage the project. If the refinery were run at capacity, it would require 20,000 tons of sugarcane per year; this would require 400 hectare and would produce 2,000 tons of sugar. At present 147 hectare are prepared for raising sugarcane, and of this 80 hectare are in production, yielding 50 tons per hectare. [passage omitted]

The administrative committee is strongly committed to making the price of Lao white sugar lower than that of imported sugar so that it can compete. Controlling the

price paid to the people for sugarcane is one important measure which will be used. Whatever is done, they must be careful that those raising sugarcane receive an adequate return, which means that they should make more or at least as much as those in other lines of work or those raising other crops. If this is not the case, I fear that it will end up like an elephant in front and a mouse behind; I have heard that in some areas the sugarcane has been left standing in the fields because when one deducted from the requisition price paid by the refinery the cost of preparing the soil, the cost of fertilizer, the cost of insecticide, interest expense, the cost of transportation and the other expenses which had to be paid, what was left was no inducement and did not allow the farmers to dream of a future any better than just getting by. [passage omitted]

Australian-Aided Livestock Project

90OG0147F Vientiane PASASON in Lao 9 Feb 90 p 1

[Excerpt] In the morning of 7 February The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Irrigation, and Agricultural Cooperatives held a ceremony to officially open the Lao-Australian livestock project at Nam Souang.

Honored guests at the ceremony included Mr. Inkong Mahavong, the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Irrigation and Agricultural Cooperatives, Mr. Philip Jackson, the Australian Ambassador to Laos, several deputy ministers and a number of cadres involved in the project.

During the ceremony Mrs. Manivon Vilavong, the head of the project, summarized the initial accomplishments regarding the construction of the project, which required an investment of Australian \$4.8 million. Of this the Australian government investment amounted to Australian \$3.9 million, and the LPDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic] government investment amounted to 14.6 million kip. The project was technologically oriented; it was important to emphasize technology when expanding the network of livestock cadres at all levels. [passage omitted]

Thai Border District Security Posture Described

90OG0147C Vientiane PASASON in Lao 17 Feb 90 p 3

[Excerpts] Today Boten has a broad support structure. [passage omitted] It is in a strong position as far as public security. [passage omitted]

Their familiarity with the events of those days reinforced their feelings and allowed them to see clearly the cruel schemes and the unchanging nature of the evil group which was always hoping to destroy their peace. From those days until the present they have concentrated on carrying out the policies for defending the nation and defending the peace for all the people. All the various ethnic groups of Boten District are ready to take part to the utmost of their ability in these activities. As a result the support for national defense in this district is broad-based and firm.

One of the tasks the people strove to carry out involved the regulations for the village. The census was gradually taken. In addition they supported the administration in

everything. The past dangers that society would collapse were dispelled and the people's feeling of mastery over society has steadily increased. At the same time they are still determined to take part in operations to defend the peace and destroy the evil groups which have infiltrated. As a result the border area, which was turbulent in the past, has become peaceful.

The guerrilla forces and self-defense forces in particular were improved and strengthened. Those in each village and in each canton have gone through a selection process based on actual operations. They are patriotic and love the people profoundly. In comparison with the past the numbers are lower but the quality is higher - they are stronger than in the past. [passage omitted]

All areas of Boten are peaceful now. [passage omitted]

Transportation Cooperation With SRV's Quang Nam-Da Nang

90P30003 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 25 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Three months into the implementation of the business cooperation agreement between the communications, transport, postal and construction sectors of Savannakhet (LPDR) and Quang Nam-Da Nang (SRV), the results achieved have been most satisfactory. The enterprises, passenger bus companies, transport services and the Federation of Communications Services Producers have cooperated and succeeded in carrying out the agreements they signed with the Savannakhet Repair and Transport Company. These entities have opened up passenger service between Savannakhet and Da Nang. Each side has made four trips. Although not many passengers have made the trip, each company has vehicles running on schedule. The Quang Nam-Da Nang Province Passenger Company is consulting with the relevant agencies in order to solve basic problems and to facilitate things for the passengers. Pursuant to the request of Savannakhet Province, the company has appointed five highly trained technicians to come to Savannakhet to work with the Savannakhet Province Passenger and Repair Company to work on its vehicles and to exchange views on maintenance work.

The Quang Nam-Da Nang Province company is also cooperating with the Savannakhet firm in exchanges of vehicle spare parts and goods produced by the Quang Nam-Da Nang firms' workers such as wood, rattan, marble products, and wood-inlay handicrafts. These goods are eagerly sought by buyers and sellers, benefiting both sides.

The cooperative relationship between the two countries' transportation sectors in these provinces has been solidly preserved because it is based on mutual equality and respect, with benefits for both sides. The Savannakhet side has proposed that the Quang Nam-Da Nang side review the authorization from its provincial People's Committee in order to cooperate in investing in the construction of a hotel in Savannakhet which would

serve customers both inside and outside the trade sectors. Proposals have been made for trade in wood and rattan products, pottery, wood-inlay products, etc.

Recently, a delegation from the Savannakhet transport sector led by Kongkeo, a member of the provincial party committee and the deputy chief of the sector came to Da Nang to sign a number of economic agreements with the Quang Nam-Da Nang provincial transport sector. These will expand cooperative relations between the two provinces' transportation sectors in the coming period.

Although the cooperative projects between the two provinces are not yet large, they do contribute to expanding production and utilizing labor within the sectors and have strengthened the traditional friendship between fraternal Vietnam and Laos.

Action Against Counterrevolutionaries in Vientiane

90OG0147B Vientiane PASASON in Lao 20 Feb 90 p 3

[Excerpts] Ban Viang Keo Village is situated on the banks of the Mia River. It is affiliated with Ban Son Canton, Vangviang District, Vientiane Province. [passage omitted] This village has a strong guerrilla network, which performs its duty of defending the nation well. [passage omitted] Since this guerrilla force was set up, it has experienced difficulties in many areas. For example, its means of transportation and its equipment were insufficient, and there were a number of people who did not clearly understand public security activities. But through the close control of the party committee, the administrative committee and the united front organization, they were able to mobilize the people into joining the national defense activities. Gradually they increased their defense activities to include all the people under [the authority of] the party. [passage omitted] In addition to performing their primary duties they also organized the people into night watches for the village. They conducted a census in order to assure order in society and to block every disruptive activity conducted by evil people slipping into the village. In addition to inspecting the area of their village, these guerrilla forces also worked with the regional military forces of the district and the provincial military forces in conducting operations in various areas. Of particular note the guerrilla forces of Ban Viang Keo Village recently worked with military units of central authority stationed in the area to suppress and punish destructive elements hoping to destroy the revolution which were hiding in the area. They moved quickly and completely destroyed the ambitions of these destructive groups to resist the revolution. [passage omitted]

Thai Investment at Vientiane Port

90OG0147G Vientiane PASASON in Lao 21 Feb 90 p 2

[Excerpts] Why has the port of Tha Deua, Hatsaifong District, Vientiane Municipality, which was renovated, been called: "the port of Phalansai?" [passage omitted]

The construction at the port of Phalansai began in August 1989. It cost more than 40 million kip; 1 million baht were donated by Khun Lek Singsombun and Khunying Suwanniphua Phailot, and 10 million kip were donated by Mr Lot Silisai. The construction included adding to the steps for passengers, the cement wall guarding against water erosion, which is 35 meters wide, and the port building, which is 16 meters wide, eight meters high and 24 meters long. This building was also provided with a VIP lounge (a special room) and was decorated with Lao cultural art.

The goal of building a new customs house for the port of Tha Deua was to make the system for inspecting and controlling exports and imports more convenient and orderly; it was needed because every day without exception the port of Tha Deua was crowded with passengers. There were also Lao merchants waiting to purchase goods from passengers coming from Thailand. Some were passengers returning from Thailand, and some were crossing over to Thailand. The customs house was in disrepair and was not suitable because it was not next to the port. [passage omitted]

Khammouan District Security Problems

90OG0147E Vientiane PASASON in Lao 13 Feb 90 p 3

[Excerpts] Mahaxai District is half in the mountains and half in the plains. Its population totals more than 34,000. [passage omitted] The district's public security network has been enlarged and strengthened. [passage omitted]

In general people of all types and classes understand clearly these duties and recognize that they are honorable and should be carried out to the utmost of one's strength in order that one's locality be defended from the destruction of evil groups. [passage omitted] Each year the guerrilla units receive political and military training. They coordinate closely with the regional military forces in conducting operations when there is a situation calling for it. At present each canton has sufficient guerrilla forces; each has a mobile company and a squad stationed in each locality capable of maintaining the peace there.

The district military commander told me sincerely that in general although the basis of public security throughout the district was strong, nevertheless because of its terrain there were some areas in the mountains which were secluded and distant and so provided an opportunity for evil groups to conduct operations. As a result there were still cantons which did not have real peace, in particular, the three cantons on the border with Savannakhet Province. But they had a policy to correct this. They would use propaganda to mobilize the people and would support the operations of the guerrilla forces, which would be coordinated closely with the operations of the regional military forces. He felt that in 1990 they would be able to provide these areas with a basis for peace. [passage omitted]

Efforts to Sell Jet Fighters, Automobiles to Chile

90OG0148D Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN
in Malay 28 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 27 Feb—The sales of Skyhawk fighter planes, Proton Saga cars, and electronic items were the main topics during a day of talks between Malay trade delegation members and their counterparts here today.

The Chilean Air Force is interested in buying Skyhawk fighters owned by Malaysia and stored in the Arizona desert in the United States.

The jets, which are now the responsibility of Airod, Inc. Ltd., will be offered to Chile at \$2 million each. Malaysia has 40 of the jets awaiting buyers.

Brigadier General, retired, Datuk Ariff Awang, general manager of Airod and a member of Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba's delegation, will continue talks on further details of the offer with the agency in charge of buying aircraft for the Chilean Air Force.

He said that if the jets can be sold for \$2 million each his company will earn an acceptable profit.

Airoad will need to restore the jets to flying condition first, he said. Airoad will do the overhauling itself.

After being unused for such a long time, the jets, which were originally bought from the United States for the Royal Malaysian Air Force, are no longer in flying condition.

Besides selling the jets, Airoad will also try to interest the Chilean Air Force in sending its C-130 transports to Malaysia for overhaul.

Meanwhile, the Malaysian trade commissioner for South America, Than Sing Khoo, announced that two Chilean automobile distributors are interested in marketing Proton Saga cars here.

He said car sales will not be possible for the time being, however, since Proton still does not have the capacity to meet growing foreign demand in addition to the large domestic demand.

As in many other countries, Japanese cars control the market in Chile, which has a population of 12 million.

According to Than, Malaysia will take part in an international trade exposition to be held here in October. Commodities of interest to the business community here will be displayed along with other commodities that have potential.

The Malaysian trade delegation talked today with the Chilean National Trade Council, the Export Promotion Bureau, and the Trade and Manufacturing Association. Each group introduced available commodities.

At this time, Malaysia exports 28 kinds of finished and semifinished products to Chile. The value of the exports is not very large, however.

Principal exports include rubber, rubber products, crude oil, spices, cooking oil, air conditioners, and electronic equipment.

Chile's main exports to Malaysia are copper, sardines, and apples.

According to a Chilean official, his country's annual exports to Malaysia are worth \$10 million, while its imports from Malaysia are valued at \$27 million, giving Malaysia a trade surplus of \$17 million.

He said Malaysia can increase its purchases from Chile, particularly pine lumber, printing paper, and fruit.

Chile now has close trade ties with China, Korea, Japan, and Taiwan.

The official added that it is up to Malaysia to initiate more sales to Chile, since "our markets are open to everyone."

Namibia Wants Troops To Stay

90OG0148B Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 26 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 25 Feb—Namibia has asked Malaysia to leave its troops in that country after the UN force completes its assignment at the end of March.

Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said the troops' task would be to maintain peace until Namibia has its own military.

He said the request must be studied carefully from legal and constitutional aspects, however, to determine whether it can be complied with.

Speaking to Malaysian reporters shortly after arriving here for a 4-day official visit, Ghafar announced that Namibia had made an official request through the United Nations prior to his departure from New York.

He described the request as an honor to Malaysia, because it clearly indicates Namibian confidence in our military, which makes up part of the UN force in Namibia.

Malaysia now has 889 officers and men in Namibia. The first group arrived there in April 1989.

According to Ghafar, Malaysia was the only one asked to remain in Namibia to continue its peace-keeping role.

He also announced that Namibia has asked Malaysia to bear the cost of force, which requires a considerable outlay.

Another consideration that must be studied, he said, is the safety of the Malaysian officers and men.

He added that all of these matters will be studied by the cabinet before deciding whether to accept or reject the request.

Ghaffar does not have an official schedule for today and tomorrow because of the weekend.

On Monday, he will call on Chilean Foreign Minister Felipe Errazuriz and Interior Minister Carlos Caceres.

After that, Ghaffar will place a wreath of flowers at the National Memorial Monument.

At noon, he will be entertained at lunch by the Chilean foreign minister, and in the afternoon he will be taken sightseeing around Santiago.

Mahathir Denies Early Election Plans

90OG0148A Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 25 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Seremban, 24 Feb—Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamad declared that the government will not hold elections merely because it is sure of winning and that the full five years should elapse before each election.

He said it is not good for the government to hold early elections simply because it has indications it will win.

"We don't use elections as games. Elections should be held once every five years in order that a government may complete its term of office," he said.

Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir said this to reporters here this morning following a closed meeting with state leaders of UMNO [United Malays National Organization] and the National Front (BN).

The UMNO president said he is still thinking about a suitable date for the elections. There is still time, since it is required only that elections be held before October 1991.

He added that the BN is prepared to face elections at any time a suitable date is determined.

"Many people say elections will be held soon because the national economy has recovered, people are living well, the national political situation is calm, and so forth. I don't know when the elections will be, however, since there is still time," he asserted.

The BN chairman said it is too early to designate BN candidates for the elections.

With regard to Central Government relations with Sabah in connection with Datuk Dr Jeffry Kitingan's arrest on corruption charges, Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir said the situation has not hurt their relationship.

"Just two days ago, Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Sri Pairin Kitingan visited me in my office, and no problem emerged," he said.

The prime minister said the issue in Sabah was not raised by a party but by an individual who is intentionally fostering anti-Federation Government feelings.

Commenting on the recent surrender of the Malayan Communist Party (PKM), he said our army has not yet been able to remove all the hidden traps placed along the country's borders.

He said the army is now making efforts to find and remove all the traps, however.

Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir also said the PKM leaders generally were not in Malaysian territory.

Responding to complaints from some quarters, including political parties, that too much time is taken for counting by-election votes and announcing results, the prime minister said if people involved will submit recommendations the government will present a bill to Parliament.

Political Plans of Ambassador to UN

90OG0149A Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN
in Malay 25 Feb 90 p 11

[Interview with Musa Hitam by correspondent Khalid Mohd. in New York on 22 February]

[Text] When Datuk Musa Hitam was appointed special Malaysian ambassador to the United Nations with rank of minister, some people thought it the final episode in his political story.

There were also some who viewed the appointment as a process of "rehabilitating" Datuk Musa after he had committed the offense of resigning his post as deputy prime minister and allying himself with Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to oppose Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Ghaffar Baba.

For those who do not like him very much, Datuk Musa is only the prime minister's "office boy," sent here and there so that he will not be a "threat" in the UMNO [United Malays National Organization] political arena.

There are some, however, who feel that Dr Mahathir is testing Datuk Musa's loyalty before bringing him back to the party's top leadership.

Opinions and suppositions be what they may, it is clear that Datuk Musa is still a major player in the country's political scenario, especially UMNO's.

Thus, although he is in New York, the question of whether he will run in the next elections continues to be the talk of the public.

What is even more discussed is whether he will run for any job in the UMNO elections at the end of this year, and, if he does run, which office he will seek.

To get an answer to these questions, our correspondent asked Datuk Musa for an interview. Actually, he was

very reluctant to be interviewed, saying, "I don't want to spark any unwarranted speculations."

After being urged for 3 days, Datuk Musa finally acquiesced.

The interview took place in his small office at the Malaysian Mission on the 44th floor of the United Nations in New York.

For almost 3 hours, he exhibited the keenness of a veteran politician and showed how "useful" he will be to the current principal UMNO players.

The conclusion is that Musa Hitam is still hale and hearty and not a man acting out the final episode of his political story.

Actually, he is waiting for the right time, waiting on developments, and reinforcing his strength in UMNO to enable him to avoid further mistakes.

Following is the complete interview held with him on 22 February:

[Khalid Mohd.] Are you willing to run in the next general elections?

[Datuk Musa] If the top leadership wants me, I am willing to continue my service.

I am also willing to help the party ensure victory for the National Front.

[Khalid Mohd.] What about the party? Are you going to run for any job in the next election?

[Datuk Musa] That depends on final developments in the party and will require the views and opinions of the top leadership. Ultimately, I myself will have to consider the negative and positive implications for the party if I should run.

Really, there are people in the party who are able to bear the burdens and responsibilities of leading the party and the government. That means my role will naturally be smaller.

[Khalid Mohd.] What if you are nominated?

[Datuk Musa] Wait and see. Forgive me for answering like that, but I know that my situation here is cause for too much speculation.

I don't want to cause an unstable situation in the party, especially now that UMNO is busy bringing an atmosphere of calm to the party and preparing its administration for the next elections.

The national elections are more important.

[Khalid Mohd.] Is it possible you may run for deputy president?

[Datuk Musa] I feel Ghafar Baba is doing a satisfactory job for the party.

He has demonstrated his stature as a person who truly understands grass-roots politics. As deputy president, he appears able to help the president in a number of party jobs and responsibilities.

To me, it is more important to continue supporting Ghafar, because of the factors I just mentioned.

I can't see any reason why Ghafar should be opposed.

I confess that in the last several months Ghafar's relationship with me has been quite close because we have so often talked about things related to the party and the government.

My relationship with Ghafar is just like my present relationship with Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir.

Moreover, for the sake of party stability, the top leadership has urged that there be no competition for these two positions (president and deputy president).

Close Friend

[Khalid Mohd.] Now what about a position as vice president?

[Datuk Musa] To me, the current three vice presidents are truly men of stature. All of them are my close friends.

Besides, I realize that there are many other figures of the same caliber who want to offer themselves.

Although it is the normal practice in UMNO for many candidates to run hard for vice president, I must be careful before making a decision.

Let me wait for the opinion of the whole party, for my situation is rather unique.

[Khalid Mohd.] But if there are many candidates, will you still refuse?

[Datuk Musa] From my experience, many candidates don't necessarily mean many votes. That's only a general picture.

Just wait and see.

[Khalid Mohd.] What about membership on the Supreme Council? Would you be willing to be a candidate for that?

[Datuk Musa] To me, a position as an ordinary member of the Supreme Council is a very important job. I don't consider it "inferior" to a vice president's position.

What I must be careful about is whether or not my reentry into the middle of the UMNO political arena will have negative consequences for UMNO. I'm on the sideline now.

If I find there will be a bad or negative effect, it will be no problem for me not to run nor hold a party post.

[Khalid Mohd.] Are you really serious (about not running for anything)?

[Datuk Musa] The only thing that is clear to me is that UMNO is my flesh and blood, and I will remain in UMNO even though I may not hold any post.

[Khalid Mohd.] May I conclude, then, that you will run in the party election scheduled for this year?

[Datuk Musa] Read between the lines.

[Khalid Mohd.] What about the job of president? Are you considering running for that position?

[Datuk Musa] That question should not be raised.

Despite what anyone said in the past when I was deputy president and deputy prime minister to Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir, it has never entered my mind to challenge Dr Mahathir.

[Khalid Mohd.] What about the things that happened in 1987? You joined with Tengku Razaleigh and opposed Dr Mahathir and Ghafar Baba?

[Datuk Musa] In that year, I campaigned only to keep my position as deputy president.

I was defeated by Ghafar, and no one can deny that I accepted the defeat cheerfully.

[Khalid Mohd.] When the party election and the general elections are over, will you be willing to play a bigger role, such as joining the cabinet?

[Datuk Musa] The appointment of anyone to a government position, such as membership in the cabinet, is entirely up to the prime minister.

[Khalid Mohd.] A bigger question is whether you can still work with the prime minister after holding the views and opinions that prompted you to resign as deputy prime minister.

[Datuk Musa] I believe the prime minister well enough understands my style and my views on various issues of government administration.

If, after experience and acquaintance with me, the prime minister still acknowledges that he needs me, that means "half the problem is solved."

I admit that there have been differences of opinion and viewpoint between me and the prime minister in the past, but that is nothing unusual.

That happens in any government, including Malaysian government administrations of the past.

The basic question is one of trust and confidence. If the prime minister has no confidence in one of his ministers, there is no sense in the minister's continuing to serve.

This factor is the most important thing to me, and my position is that it is better to see mutual confidence

between the prime minister and his team than for a person to be a minister merely for the importance of the job or for his own personal interests.

Therefore, the issue of whether I can work with the prime minister or not depends strongly on the prime minister's own confidence in me.

[Khalid Mohd.] How is your relationship with Ghafar now?

[Datuk Musa] In politics, my relationship with Ghafar is not a unique situation.

There are many examples, from the highest levels to the lowest, of how leaders who were once enemies become close friends at a later time.

This is because of political factors, including the overall interests of the party and the country. Personal political factors are taken into consideration, of course.

Advice

In the way I conduct politics, I am able to distinguish between political and personal relationships.

Of course, this is more difficult to do than to say. For example, in the mid-eighties my political differences with Dr Mahathir were called immense. Our ties of personal friendship continued, however, although they were sometimes strained a little.

In the same way, my political differences with Tengku Razaleigh were great at the beginning of the eighties. In 1987, we appeared so close, but now one can say that we have large political differences again.

Nevertheless, I still consider Tengku Razaleigh to be a friend.

I have also known Ghafar ever since I entered politics about 25 years ago. Over this long period, I have considered him to be my leader and one who guides and advises me in politics.

At the same time, I believe we have strengthened our ties of personal friendship. It is this personal friendship that has created the present close relationship between the two of us for the sake of the party and the government, a relationship that transcends other personal interests.

[Khalid Mohd.] What about your relationship with Anwar Ibrahim?

[Datuk Musa] I have never considered Anwar a political enemy, nor Datuk Abdullah Badawi, either.

I have tried quite a bit to encourage them to move ahead in the political arena.

When I was in the government before, the relationships among all of us were close. Because the men have been busy, however, our present ties are not so close.

Recently, however, I have been in touch and have exchanged views with them; and I greatly appreciate their willingness to exchange views on party and national issues.

[Khalid Mohd.] UMNO people know that there are efforts to block your return to the party's top leadership. Are you aware of those efforts?

[Datuk Musa] I realize I am an ordinary person, and a person who is still involved in politics.

Obstructing one another in politics is a normal thing. I realize and understand that there are personalities and groups who are not happy to see me come back.

There are some whose opinions are appropriate, and I respect them. There are also some whose opinions are based on their factional political and personal interests.

To resolve this, we must leave it to public and majority opinion. Only the democratic process of elections will determine the fate of a person in politics.

[Khalid Mohd.] Which is the strongest of the moves against you?

[Datuk Musa] That's very hard for me to measure. Recently, however, personalities who once did not even want to speak to me have become friendly again and have established political relationships.

Not only that; some who were strong opponents of mine now want to ask my advice and opinion, not only about politics generally, but also about their own personal political positions.

Thus, although there is opposition, it has decreased, thank God.

[Khalid Mohd.] In view of your situation now, you must feel more comfortable.

[Datuk Musa] Yes, I feel more comfortable and more accepted in UMNO now.

[Khalid Mohd.] There is no reason why you should not return to UMNO leadership, is there?

[Datuk Musa] Although I feel more accepted and more comfortable with influential leaders, that doesn't mean they would support me.

As for whether I will return to the middle of the political arena, as I said earlier, we will wait and see what the views of all party members are.

UMNO Personalities Welcome Musa Hitam Candidacy for Party Office

90OG0149B Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 26 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] Kuala Terengganu, 25 Feb—Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, today characterized former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam's

willingness to run for UMNO [United Malays National Organization] vice president in the party's next general assembly as "splendid."

"For us, anyone's intention to offer himself to serve the party more actively and effectively is splendid," he told reporters here in reaction to the statement of Datuk Musa Hitam, who is also former UMNO deputy president, that he is willing to run for the office if nominated.

Tan Sri Haji Wan Mokhtar, who is now one of the three party vice presidents, said he would seek reelection if nominated.

"In UMNO, there is no prohibition or limit on who may run for any office, except for the positions of president and deputy president, which traditionally should not be opposed," he said.

He said, however, that any contest should be conducted in an atmosphere that is family-like, honest, and respectful, without any dirty campaign tactics, such as personal slander of opponents.

He said that, as Malays who follow Islam and possess a tradition of courtesy, UMNO members who want to hold a post, especially at top levels of party leadership, must conduct themselves honorably.

Tan Sri Haji Wan Mokhtar said that if a person wants to run for an office, he must be able to face two unavoidable things: victory or defeat.

"If we win, we should be grateful; but if we lose, we should consider it something preordained that is certain to have something good hidden behind it," he said.

At Kota Bharu, Kelantan Chief Minister Tan Sri Mohamed Yaacob said Datuk Musa has the right to run for vice president if he wants to, since UMNO is a party that practices democracy.

Any decision Datuk Musa makes, however, should be positive and not cause division among fellow UMNO members, he told reporters after opening the East Coast session of the Splendid Culture Seminar, sponsored by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Tan Sri Mohamed, who is also president of the state's UMNO Liaison Committee, said the bitter experiences of past campaigns for various important UMNO posts should be a lesson and guideline to us.

With regard to the Pasir Mas UMNO Division's failure to hold a general assembly last year because of a conflict over positions, Tan Sri Mohamed said the situation has calmed down somewhat.

At Kuala Kangsar, Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz asked UMNO members not to think about running for party posts at this time but to focus attention on the party's machinery for facing the general elections.

The president of UMNO Women said that for the present "we should put aside campaigns, for it is not the time to run for party office."

She made this comment in reaction to Datuk Musa Hitam's statement of intent to run for vice president or Supreme Council membership in the next party leadership election.

Datuk Sri Rafidah told reporters after a Chinese New Year dinner here last night that she herself welcomes Datuk Musa's intentions.

"I ask, however, that no one discuss party elections now but rather talk about propelling party machinery to victory in the next elections," she said.

UMNO Women's Leader Criticizes DAP, Spirit of '46

*90OG0148C Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN
in Malay 26 Feb 90 p 20*

[Text] Ipoh, 25 Feb—Datuk Sri Datin Paduka Rafidah Aziz, president of UMNO Women's Movement, said the dividing up of prime minister and chief minister positions by Spirit of '46 and DAP [Democratic Action Party] leaders, even though elections have not even been announced, proves their politics are for themselves and not for the people.

"Because they want to be prime minister and chief ministers, they are willing to slander others so that Malays will hate Malays. That is what the splinter parties have done," she said.

For the People

She said, "Although elections have not been held, the splinter parties have already decided among themselves who will be prime minister and chief ministers. This shows they will not campaign for the sake of the people. Those positions are held by members of the National Front because they were elected by the people."

She reminded all UMNO [United Malays National Organization] members, and particularly members of UMNO Women's Movement, that they should always be sensitive and be willing to ensure that the present government can continue its development of the country.

Speaking here today at a reception for the Pasir Pinji Division of UMNO Women's Movement, she asked all UMNO members to support any National Front component candidate in the next elections as a guarantee that present policies will be continued for the sake of the people.

Datuk Sri Rafidah said that although leaders have not blown the whistle to call members to get ready, leaders have been signaling that members should guarantee that UMNO, which is the backbone of the government, will continue to govern the country through cooperation with National Front component parties.

"Don't refuse to support a parliamentary or state candidate because he is not from UMNO, since a loss by even one vote will mean we will all suffer. The policies introduced for the sake of the people would then not be perpetuated," she declared. She is also minister of trade and industry.

Coup Leaders Soliciting Funds

42000060C Baguio City *THE GOLD ORE* in English
17 Feb 90 pp 1, 3

[Article by Noli C. Cabantug]

[Text] Fort del Pilar, Baguio City—Two top ranking coup leaders were here in Baguio the other week soliciting funds from wealthy ultra-rightist supporters to finance another coup, a CHRONICLE source yesterday said.

"A nephew" of renegade Air Force Lt. Col. Eduardo Kapunan said his uncle, together with rebel PC Lt. Col. Victor Batac, contacted "ultra-rightist backers" here in preparation for another coup attempt within this year.

The nephew who asked anonymity said the two most wanted coup leaders came up here from La Union through the Naguilian Road aboard a "heavily" tinted car and stayed here for one week unnoticed by Military authorities.

Reacting to this information PC/INP Intelligence Chief Brig. Gen. Gerardo Flores said, "That only confirms our suspicion that the rebel movement has exhausted its finances due to a protracted coup last December."

He further added that the information bolstered an earlier intelligence report that Batac and Kapunan are closely working together.

Earlier last month, Brig. Gen. Oscar Florendo, chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Civil Relations Service (CRS), said that the two slipped through a dragnet set by military intelligence operatives in Pasig. It was reported that Kapunan left a leather jacket as he scrambled to elude arrest.

Batac and Kapunan had been tagged as core members of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People (RAM-SFP). Both carry half-million pesos reward for their capture.

Flores said, Batac, a former PC intelligence officer, was the tactician of the rebel forces during the latest coup try while Kapunan was the military strategist.

In a speech before an Asian Institute of Management Assembly (AIM) in Makati last week-end, PC/INP Chief Maj. Gen. Ramon E. Montano said that rebel officers like Kapunan, cashiered Army Lt. Col. Gregorio Honasan and former Navy Capt. Felix Turingan "had infected the PMA cadets and AFP junior officers assigned at PMA with rebel hopes and aspirations".

Meantime, the PMA Class 1990, Baron and the number two cadet to graduate this year revealed that Honasan has gone out of his way to lure his class to the rebel cause.

Cadet First Class Arthur Bisnar, who holds the distinction of being the First Captain and the Regimental Commander of the AFP Cadet Corps, said that Honasan gathered and lectured to them last summer of 1989 while they were undergoing a special training in Camp Laor, Nueva Ecija.

He said, Honasan gave an informal lecture on the current Philippine political situation and the state of the AFP. "The military you are serving is retarded. I will be doing something about it," he quoted Honasan as saying.

Honasan, Bisnar said, was not their official instructor during that time but came and gave a lecture.

Honasan was at that time an Army training instructor there where he later recruited the Army trainees to participate in the August 28, 1987 failed coup attempt.

Bisnar said he does not share the idea of Montano that they were influenced by the rebels. "If that is so, we could have openly sympathized with the rebels during the latest coup. In fact, we declared our support for the constitution," Bisnar said.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa, at rites yesterday at the PMA challenged the graduating cadets to prove themselves as "professional officers and not politicians."

De Villa in his speech also challenged the cadets "to help unite the fractious AFP." "Once more, you are called upon to prove yourselves as true professional soldiers and differentiate yourselves from military men who chose to be politicians," de Villa said. NC/02.16/01.

Subin, Doctor Comment on U.S. Cigarette Import Issue

90SE0001C Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai 11-17 Feb 90 p 15

[Excerpt] On 5 and 6 February, Thai representatives will hold talks with U.S. trade representatives in Geneva. One of the topics to be discussed is the cigarette issue. The problem of opening the Thai market to American cigarettes has been an issue for so long that GATT must now solve the problem. The United States had threatened to use Article 301 of the U.S. Trade Law against Thailand.

After a meeting of the Economic Relations Policy Committee, Mr. Subin Pinkhayan, the minister of commerce, told reporters that during the meeting on 5 and 6 February, Thailand will cite four reasons for not allowing American cigarettes to be sold in Thailand:

1. This will have an adverse effect on Thai tobacco growers.
2. This will reduce the revenues of the Ministry of Finance.
3. This will affect laborers who work in the cigarette industry.
4. This concerns the health of the people, which is an important issue.

If GATT decides in favor of the United States, Thailand may withdraw from GATT.

However, the fact that the cigarette issue has been brought to GATT shows that the fight against the import of American cigarettes has achieved results. Because besides the opposition to this expressed in Thailand, in the United States itself, congressmen, various other people, and various organizations have expressed opposition to exporting American cigarettes.

During the debate on "America, the International Gangster," which was held a few days ago, Dr. Prakrit Wathisathokkit, a member of the Anti-Smoking Campaign, said that one of the reasons why people in the United States oppose cigarettes is that the 1988 annual report issued by the U.S. Department of Health stated that cigarettes and tobacco products are addictive. Besides this, using nicotine is similar to using cocaine or heroin.

"The number of Americans killed each year by heroin from the Golden Triangle or from cocaine is less than the number of Thais who die from smoking American cigarettes," said Dr. Prakrit during the debate.

The GATT debate on cigarettes is a historical event, because Thailand's case is the first such case, and this will serve as an example for other countries where American cigarettes are not yet sold.

"Even East European countries are helping Thailand in GATT, because if GATT decides in favor of the United

States, that will enable the United States to export cigarettes to foreign markets that are now closed to American cigarettes," said a news source.

At the same time, Dr. Prakrit pointed out that because the GATT negotiations have not yet begun, the Thai government should not have done some of the things that it has done, because the United States will be able to cite those things at the GATT talks. Those things include: 1. stating that Thailand will export cigarettes to Indochina, 2. selling Thai cigarettes aboard Thai International aircraft, which, said Dr. Prakrit, earns very little money, and 3. stating that additional tobacco factories will be built, although the Ministry of Finance has now withdrawn this statement.

"They will definitely use this against us," said Dr. Prakrit. [passage omitted]

Parliament Head Sees Lao, Cambodia Trade Conduits

90SE0007B Bangkok NAO NA in Thai 28 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] Mr. Prasop Butsarakhom, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, announced that the subcommittee will hold a seminar on the topic of opening the Thai-Lao border in Nan Province. The seminar will be held during the period 7-9 March at the Nan provincial auditorium. Participating in the seminar will be representatives from the National Security Council, the 3d Army Region, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce, and the Ministry of Interior. As yet, no Lao representatives will attend the seminar.

Mr. Prasop said that the reason for this is that the government has implemented a policy of establishing friendly relations with neighboring countries. If the border is opened permanently, this will benefit the economy. And this will facilitate trade with Laos and the export of goods to China through Laos, because China is only 400 km away. Besides this, this will promote trade in the northern region.

Mr. Prasop said that if this seminar proves beneficial, everyone has agreed to hold another one in Sisaket Province in order to discuss opening a route to Vietnam through Cambodia.

Oranut: New Agency To Coordinate Indochina Trade

90SE0003B Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 15 Feb 90 pp 5, 12

[Text] Mrs. Oranut Osathanon, the director-general of the Department of Foreign Trade, said that last week, the National Security Council (NSC) passed a resolution to have the Department of Foreign Trade serve as the activist in establishing a center to coordinate trade and economic matters in Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. The function of this center will be to provide trade data on these three countries to those in the private sector who

are interested in investing there. It will also be responsible for solving various problems encountered by those in the private sector in carrying on trade.

"This center will be composed of people from the units involved in promoting international trade, such as the Department of Commercial Relations, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Finance, the Customs Department, the ministry of Interior, and the Board of Investment, and people from the private sector, such as the Industrial Council and the Thai Bankers Association."

Mrs Oranut added that besides this, Mr. Subin Pinkhayan, the minister of commerce, has also authorized the Department of Foreign Trade to establish a special center to provide data services until the coordinating center has been established. "The minister has also ordered us to form a public-private delegation to visit Vietnam at the end of April. The purpose of the visit will be to look for ways to expand trade."

Ministry Sources Comment on Indochina Trade Prospects

4200052A Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
6 Feb 90 p 15

[Text] The government's ambition to turn the Indochinese battlefield into a market place would be derailed if the departments involved fail to address the many hurdles—including reluctance to take responsibility for the task—facing potential traders and investors with these newly liberalizing economies.

These problems are so wide-ranging that they will require a serious effort by the government to overcome them or they may completely block the flow of goods, services and capital into Laos, Vietnam and Kampuchea as well as Burma which signed a bilateral trade pact with Thailand just last weekend.

Despite the looming catastrophe, the Commerce Ministry, which was instructed by the Cabinet to set up mechanisms to facilitate trade with Indochina, seems unable to take a decisive stand as to which department will have responsibility for overseeing the government's policy. Many businessmen are complaining that the longer the decision-making takes, the greater the damages will be.

Many exporters are blaming the many departments within the ministry for not having the courage to undertake the task or to serve the private sector in contacting their Indochinese counterparts.

The complexity of bureaucratic procedures, lack of coordinating mechanisms, and the shaky financial systems in those countries also make business activities proceed at a speed that can be compared to a turtle's crawl.

Krirk-krai Jeerapaet, deputy director-general of the Foreign Trade Department, admitted that not a single department was willing to take charge of trade with Indochina.

This is because it is a region which is burdened with so many internal and external problems that the government agency in charge may find itself a sitting target for criticism from private companies which have set up, or are trying to set up, businesses in these countries but are not fully aware of the frustrations involved in fostering bilateral trade.

An official of the Commerce Ministry, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the problems concerning commercial ties with the Indochinese countries are so wide-ranging that a single-minded centrally-planned policy from the ministry alone would not be able to cope with the "different" trade environment.

Laos, for instance, is said to have a severe shortage of foreign currency. Thai exporters are also required to deliver their goods first before the Laotian buyers place deposits or make payments, thus raising fear among Thai businessmen of possible bad debt.

Because of this lack of foreign currency, the Commerce Ministry holds the view that countertrade, particularly for timber and processed wood, should be encouraged.

Moreover, a shortage of economic experts has also obstructed the expansion of international trade between Laos and other countries. Academic assistance in various areas from Thailand would prove beneficial to the development of Laos and its potential for international trade in the long term.

The official pointed out that the absence of a mechanism to effectively handle the multi-party trade has resulted in foreign traders spending excessive amounts of money to be able to do business. The cheating being experienced in security contacts and agreements is also discouraging businessmen from other areas from making investments there.

Laos' exports constitute mainly wood products and timber. However, the tariff on these products is prohibitively high. As a result, the production costs involved in bringing timber back to Thailand for processing has skyrocketed.

Timber imports have shrunk so much since the tariff was raised that the Commerce Minister is believed to be considering approaching the Laotian authorities on a possible tax reduction.

Despite efforts being made officially and unofficially by both sides to facilitate trade flow, Thai businessmen have repeatedly called on the government to help in any possible way to minimize the risks incurred from dealing with the Laotians.

Since implementing its economic reforms, the Vientiane government has passed three investment codes, however

none of them gives any assurances that the authorities' position on foreign investment will change.

Most private investors fear that a change in the composition of the Laotian Cabinet, if this does occur at all, might halt the liberalization of the country's economy which would give room for Thai and other foreign investors to position themselves.

They were also concerned that there were no insurance firms or international branches in Laos, which raised problems among exporters in Thailand of not being able to claim compensation for deliveries damaged or lost in transit. Thai insurance companies are reluctant, or outright refuse, to guarantee shipments of goods to Laos.

The most sensitive problem facing Thai traders, however, is the lack of civil and commercial law, which means that private companies cannot file a lawsuit with the courts in regard to any business disputes or breaches of contract in Laos.

Ministry sources say that trade prospects with the other Indochinese countries are of no less concern to the implementation of the government's marketplace policy. Vietnam has faced similar problems to Laos regarding limited foreign currency reserves.

Because the country is rich in natural resources, the Commerce Ministry has suggested that the alternative method of countertrade would be the safest way to do business with Vietnam.

Moreover, poorly-organized data centre and communications links between Thailand and Vietnam do not allow Thai businessmen to contact their partners or representative offices efficiently and effectively.

Some private companies have urged the Commerce Ministry to hold a stake in Thai-Viet Imex Co, which was established by members of the Board of Trade to channel investment and trade to Vietnam.

However, the Foreign Trade Department has argued that the law does not allow government agencies to hold stakes in private ventures. The Commerce Ministry prefers to have a commercial counselor or an official Thai Trade Centre in Vietnam rather than share in the private firm.

A further snag to investment in Vietnam was the loosely-organized financial system which has caused many problems for traders in the repatriation of investments and profits to Thailand. Private firms sometimes have to transfer the money through banks in a third country because only a few financial institutions recognize the letter of credit issued by the Bank of Vietnam.

Representatives of the Board of Trade, the private sector organization, have sought cooperation from the Military Bank and the Thai Farmers Bank, which are to open branches in Ho Chi Minh City soon.

They have also complained that the inconsistent standard of services in Vietnam, as well as unilateral decisions to raise prices, are not conducive to successful business conduct there.

Foreign Trade Department Expanded

90SE0003A Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 9 Feb 90 p 6

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A report from the Department of Foreign Trade stated that the Civil Service Commission has authorized the establishment of five additional divisional-level units in accord with the plan to improve the structure of the Department of Foreign Trade. The five units to be established are: 1. the Textiles Trade Division, whose work used to be carried on within the Export Promotion Division, 2. the Trade Rights Division, whose work used to be carried on within the Export Promotion Division, 3. the Finance Division, which will be separate from the Office of the Secretary, 4. the Commodity Standards Inspection Division, and 5. the Commodity Standards Analysis Division. These last two divisions will be separate from the Commodity Standards Division.

Besides this, the Civil Service Commission has also authorized changing the name of the Export Promotion Division to the Commodity Agreement Trade Division. This division will be responsible for handling goods for which agreements have been reached or for which export quotas have been set.

Prime Minister Aide Discusses Nuclear Power Issues

90WP0062 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 4 Mar 90 p 3

[Interview with Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office Anuwat Wattanasiri by Siraphon Chaemchit; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Siraphon] As the person responsible for the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand [EGAT], what is the truth concerning transforming this state enterprise?

[Anuwat] The word transformation has been mentioned many times. "Transformation" of the state enterprises comes from the English word "privatization." It can refer to anything from ordinary changes to radical changes, such as those that have occurred in England. Thus, when the phrase "transforming the state enterprises" is used, people sometimes mistakenly think that this means completely changing the old form. But that is not the case at all. The present administration.... Usually, we have preserved things. But in the case of new, large projects, when we have not had sufficient investment capital, we have considered allowing the private sector to invest jointly.

Allowing the private sector to invest means that we have no other choice and that we have to allow them to help. We have to involve them. But that does not mean that they will become involved immediately. They have to

adhere to our conditions. We have to see whether the state enterprises concerned can survive and whether they agree with this. We weigh the advantages and disadvantages. No one is going to allow others to exploit this. People try to exploit each other on the trade front. Because today, the state enterprises are trade rather than government entities. Thus, we have to see whether this is suitable. We have explained things to them and they understand. There aren't any problems. The Electricity Generating Authority union is cooperating with me.

It has been stipulated that the private sector is prohibited from investing in the 35 electricity generating programs. EGAT will implement all these programs itself. I questioned the wisdom of making this stipulation, saying that this will just constrict us. If EGAT cannot carry this out, problems will arise. I asked people to think about who would benefit from this. That stipulation has closed doors on EGAT.

This will hinder the development and expansion of EGAT. People understand. I told Minister Banhan Silpa-acha that I had talked with people and that they understood. A meeting was held on 28 February. The prime minister met with the ministers and under secretaries to discuss transforming the state enterprises. They reviewed the administration's policy. Nothing was written about privatization. The only thing written was that the private sector will be allowed to invest jointly in certain projects only. Shares won't be sold on the securities exchange. I am quite sure about that.

Selling shares on the securities exchange is one way to privatize the state enterprises. But the objectives in selling shares should be quite specific and not so general as in England. This is not something that is difficult to understand. The prime minister has told people not to use the word "privatization." Instead, they should talk about "developing" the state enterprise projects. Some things we can develop ourselves. But in the case of those things for which we don't have sufficient money, manpower, or technology, we must discuss the best way to handle things, and those in the best position to Anuwat are the state enterprises. The government must provide help on the policy front and help the state enterprises find money. That's all. If the state enterprises have enough money, they can do things themselves. But if they don't have sufficient capital to implement the projects needed by the country, which is developing, we must find a way to help them.

[Siraphon] In your view, which state enterprises are engaged in pressing activities that they can handle themselves?

[Anuwat] One is electricity. If demand keeps increasing for another seven years, output will have to increase. In the past, about 100-200 megawatts were consumed a year. But this has now increased to 1,000 megawatts. We have to use two or three power plants. A power plant costs at least 30-40 billion baht. Just three plants will cost tens of billions of baht. To build the nine plants that

have been planned, we will have to invest 60-100 billion baht. This includes investments by EGAT and budget funds allotted by the government. We can't wait another four to five years. Electricity production must be increased now, because it is needed for the next seven years. Thus, the present administration must deal with this.

What is clear is that another 1-2 million telephones are needed. But we can install only 200,000 a year. But if we install only 200,000, the need will increase even more. Suppose that there are now 1.5 million and that we are short about 200,000 a year. In 7 years, that figure will rise to 3-4 million. We will never catch up. We have to think about what we can do. What is vital is radio communications. Communications with other countries requires the use of satellites. Obtaining a satellite will cost billions of baht. From where can we get the money and technology if we don't allow them to participate? We have to think about what to do.

[Siraphon] Take EGAT, for which you are responsible, for example. They are afraid that foreign investors will be allowed to invest.

[Anuwat] As has been said, foreign investors will become involved when we can't do things ourselves. If we can do things ourselves, we will. Power plants can earn huge profits. It must be admitted that it costs a lot to build a hydroelectric power plant. But investment costs can be recovered within seven to eight years, and the plant can operate for 40-50 years. Power plants never lose money. If we can do this, we will make money over the years.

[Siraphon] People think that our natural resources are being used as principal and that this is destroying our forests.

[Anuwat] If we give too much attention to the environment, we will never be able to do anything. If you talk about nuclear power plants, for example, people become frightened. There are thousands of nuclear plants around the world. There are almost 1,000 large plants with a capacity of 300 megawatts. Today, another 37 nuclear power plants are under construction. None of these plants has ever exploded and killed people. Chernobyl was not a power plant. It was a converted arms plant. There was a leak. Their control measures were not as strict as those at power plants. There has never been an explosion at a real power plant. People compare this to Hiroshima. But that was a nuclear weapon whose purpose was to destroy. As for the incident at the Four-Mile Island power plant. There was a leak there, too. Actually, it was not a leak. It was too hot, and the lubricating fluid failed. The system failed and so there was a leak. But they were able to control the leak. Nothing got out. Nobody was in any danger, because there were controls. Why didn't the Philippines go ahead with this? Because of the control by the World Nuclear Energy Office, which is headquartered in Vienna, Austria. They said that the Philippines couldn't do this because of the construction problems. Construction was not carried out in accord

with the conditions. People stole cement, rock, and sand, and so they told them that they couldn't proceed. The Philippines did a study—because the structure was not up to standard—in order to improve things. But it couldn't do this, because the structure was not up to standard. They would not accept the plant and so the Philippines couldn't build the plant. They wouldn't sell uranium to the Philippines. They control things to that extent.

The Philippines was happy with this idea. They were going to build weapons, too. India couldn't do this, because they wouldn't sell fuel to them. And they were going to use that fuel to produce electricity. But when they considered that it might be used to produce weapons, they refused to sell fuel. The Arabs have nuclear power plants. Hydroelectric power plants pollute the environment. They pollute the water, and fish die. We have to consider what should and should not be done. As for lignite, when it rains, soot becomes a problem. This pollutes the environment. Power plants that use coal produce noxious smoke that pollutes the environment. And so what should we do? Should we stop building power plants and go back to using candles? But there are standards for each type. For example, there are dust covers and filters for lignite. There is no danger. I would like to take you to see the plant in Australia. It's located in the city. [passage omitted]

[Siraphon] Will it be possible to carry out all 35 projects?

[Anuwat] Yes. But we must have investment capital. Money is very tight right now, because the amount of capital needed is increasing. The base is very big and so demand is great. In the past, there was no problem. But in the past two to three years, things have been booming. Investment capital has become tight, and so what can we do? Demand has increased greatly. In the face of such great demand, what can we do? We have shut off foreign loans. Because we can't borrow, we have looked for people to invest. Investors want to see how feasible a project is.

In such a situation, we can raise the loan ceiling. But I don't think that that will be enough, because the base is now very high. What is clear is that coastal land has begun to change. The power system is expensive. As for the nuclear power plants to be built, [it will take] 12 years. It will take seven years for the hydroelectric power plants, six years for the coal plants, and four years for the gas plants. We have to make [plans]. If we don't, where will we get the money? If we have the money, we must do this ourselves, because the profits to be made are huge. Why should we let others invest in this?

[Siraphon] Can capital be mobilized in Thailand?

[Anuwat] We have to. There are investors in the private sector. I think that mobilizing money here will be easier. There is much capital in our markets.

[Siraphon] What is our policy?

[Anuwat] It depends. A policy cannot be formulated in a vacuum. You have to be specific. Take electricity, for example. Hydroelectricity has to be handled in a certain way. Another example is dam water. We have invested jointly with Laos. Laos owns the land. In our position as the buyer, we have to consider things in a certain way. We have to consider what is best for us. Another thing is that we have to bring in third parties in order to mobilize capital, bring in technology, and increase security. The World Bank will guarantee things in the event of changes in the Thai or Lao governments. There will always be electricity for those doing business here. But in the case of Burma, we must discuss whether we can do the same thing in the case of the Salween River basin in Burma. We should look for security. But in the case of the Moei River, the power plant would be on the Thai side. We can go ahead and invest with Burma. We don't need to involve a third party, because the power plant will be on the Thai side. Because it will be on the Thai side, electricity generation won't stop. There are no roads on that side. Burma doesn't have the infrastructure. We are more developed than Burma. On the Thai side, electricity generation won't stop. Burma won't have any problems.

[Siraphon] What will happen if electricity generation doesn't increase?

[Anuwat] Unless the amount of electricity produced increases, we won't have enough for more than a year. Because at present, there is only 10 percent left. Actually, there should be 20 percent. But today, there is only about nine percent. Unless more electricity is generated, there will be blackouts next year.

One new plant will be brought on line each year. But we have been making preparations for seven to eight years. The lignite power plant, for example, will be completed this March. This will provide an additional 300 megawatts. Others are being built at Bang Pakong. Those will provide another 300, 650, and 450 megawatts. In the next two months, we will have another 700 megawatts. And more plants will come on line in the coming years. But if we stop building plants, those now under construction will be completed.

We are now preparing for 1997. We will obtain coal from Australia. That is known as black coal. Ours is lignite, which is brown in color. These will be called black and brown coal power plants to distinguish them.

Black coal power plants are plants with high efficiency. The heat value is very high. The heat value of lignite is low. Thus, we must continue to put such plants on line. We can't stop. If we do, things will come to a halt in 1995.

By 1995 there probably won't be any electricity reserves unless we take action now. In 1997, we must bring two to three more on line. We can bring in Australian technology. This is black coal. Today, Thailand has no water left for this.

[Siraphon] Does that mean that Australia will invest here?

[Anuwat] No. No. They won't invest. They asked us to hold 51 percent of the shares. But we told them that we wanted to think about this. The disadvantage is that we have to buy coal from them. The coal power plant will have to keep operating for at least 40 years. If improvements are made, it could operate for 50 years. We will have to purchase coal from them, and coal now costs \$37-50 a ton. But the coal costing \$37-38 is purchased from Indonesia. If we purchase coal from Australia, it will cost about \$50 a ton. The four power plants use about 78 million tons of coal a year.

There are two plants for a total of four units. Each unit can generate 700 megawatts for a total of 2,800 megawatts. [passage omitted]

[Siraphon] But there is a problem with the cost of the coal, right?

[Anuwat] There is just one disadvantage and that is that we must purchase coal from them.

First is the matter of coal. We will have to purchase coal for a long time, because our country doesn't have coal. But Laos and Indonesia have coal.

Second, if oil prices increase, coal prices may increase, too. That could become a problem. Thus, if oil prices rise, coal prices will increase, too. When we purchase coal, we must sign a contract. The good point is that it is not expensive. But the electricity that is generated is rather expensive. [passage omitted]

[Siraphon] Besides black coal, are there any other choices?

[Anuwat] We will probably build nuclear plants unless people are afraid of nuclear waste. I think that nuclear power is the best, because it is the cheapest. It's even better than hydroelectricity.

One disadvantage of nuclear plants is that they cost a lot to build. They can cost as much as 100 billion baht. But they can generate large quantities of electricity. And the plants are small. They can generate 1,500 megawatts of electricity a year. Another advantage of nuclear energy is that it doesn't pollute the environment. This is clean energy. It doesn't smell. The only thing is that people are afraid of leaks. [passage omitted]

Key Army Regiment Command Structure

90SE0001B Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN
in Thai 11-17 Feb 90 pp 8, 9

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The 11th King's Guard Infantry Regiment is directly subordinate to the 1st King's Guard Division. [passage omitted]

In its long history, the 11th King's Guard Infantry Regiment has participated in suppressing many attempted coups. [passage omitted]

During the rebellion of 1-3 April 1981, a battalion of the 11th King's Guard Infantry Regiment fought on the side of the rebels. That happened when Lt. Col. Bunyang Bucha, the commander of the 2d Battalion, which is one of 40 battalions, had his unit fight on the side of the Young Turks. At that time, the commander of the 11th Regiment was Col. Isaraphong Nunphakdi. Lt. Col. Saksi Khaengraeng was the commander of the 1st Infantry Battalion, and Lt. Col. Ammaphon Sawetserani was the commander of the 3d Infantry Battalion. Instead of joining the rebels, they fought on the side of the government and helped suppress the rebellion.

An event that clearly showed the role played by this unit in suppressing attempted coups was the rebellion of 9 September 1985. The headquarters of those opposing the rebels was situated at the 11th King's Guard Infantry Regiment, and the unit sent troops to help the government suppress the rebel forces. At that time, the commander of the 11th Regiment was Col. Ammaphon Sawetserani.

Because of the importance of this regiment, those officers chosen to command this unit are screened carefully by senior army commanders. In particular, the officer selected to command this regiment must be someone who is very close to the RTA CINC.

The present commanders in the 11th King's Guard Infantry Regiment include: Col. Phon Wanakamon, the regimental commander; Col. Phaisan Katanyu and Col. Nopphadon Inthapanya, the deputy commanders; Lt. Col. Thongchai Otsathahong, the chief of staff; Lt. Col. Kamon Saen-isara, the commander of the 1st Infantry Battalion; Lt. Col. Somkiet Sutthiwaikit, the commander of the 2d Infantry Battalion; and Lt. Col. Ronyut Rutthiruchai, the commander of the 3d Infantry Battalion.

Col. Phon Wanakamon is a member of CRMA [Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy] Class 14. One of his classmates is Maj. Gen. Apichai Warunprapha, or Staff Officer Ong, a staff officer to Gen. Chawalit Yongchaiyut in his capacity as supreme commander. Col. Phon was appointed commander of the 11th Regiment at the end of October 1988.

Thus, there was nothing surprising about the appointment of Col. Phon to the position of commander of this regiment, which is based in Bangkok and which has often become embroiled in politics, particularly coups.

POLITICAL

Cuban Embassy Holds Ceremony To Award Prizes

*BK2703105390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 25 Mar 90*

[Text] On the evening of 23 March 1990, the Cuban Embassy in Hanoi and the Vietnamese-Cuban Friendship Association held a ceremony to award prizes and certificates of commendation to winners of a contest organized to further promote friendly relations between Vietnam and Cuba.

Attending the function were Comrade Armando Saucedo Yero, Cuban ambassador to Vietnam; Comrade Nguyen Thi Dinh, member of the party Central Committee and president of the Vietnamese-Cuban Friendship Association; and Comrade Hoang Bich Son, member of the party Central Committee and head of the party Central Committee's Foreign Relations Committee.

VNA Reports Air Force Delegation's Visit to India

*BK2803080990 Hanoi VNA in English 0718 GMT
28 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 28—A delegation led Air Force Chief of Staff Pham Thanh Ngan has visited India at the invitation of Indian Air Force Chief of Staff S.K. Mehra.

While there, the Vietnamese delegation had working sessions with some Indian Air Force units on the furthering of the cooperation between the air forces of the two countries.

Chairman Do Muoi Receives Palestinian Ambassador

*BK2703154090 Hanoi VNA in English 1501 GMT
27 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 27—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi received on Monday [26 March] Palestinian Ambassador Said Khalil Al Masri who paid him a courtesy visit.

Chairman Do Muoi cordially talked with the Palestinian diplomat.

Vo Chi Cong, Do Muoi Greet Pakistani National Day

*BK2203153490 Hanoi VNA in English 1457 GMT
22 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 22—State Council President Vo Chi Cong and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi have sent their greetings to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on the occasion of the 34th Pakistan National Day (March 23).

State, Law Institute Director Discusses Party Renovation

*902E0183A Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
2 Mar 90 p 3*

[Article by Doctor Dao Tri Uc, Director of the State and Law Institute]

[Text] Bilateral Relationship

The policy and determination of our party is to firmly bring the country to socialism, to build a rich and powerful fatherland, and to give the people freedom, well-being, and happiness.

As the leader and vanguard unit of the people, the party can only exist and operate on the basis of the people's trust.

The party's relationship with the people is not unilateral: our party influences and guides the masses; and the party must also study the masses, conduct research in and accept good methods of activity in the "great innovations" of the masses; and on the basis of "points of light" in labor, production, and daily activity organization practice, regulate its line and policy for consistency.

The program of the Party Central Committee "on renovating and strengthening the party's civilian proselytism to truly develop the collective ownership of the people" has very accurately stated the role of the people in the revolutionary undertaking of our nation: "The achievements made are great deeds by workers, farmers, intellectuals, the armed forces, and every class of the people."

However, during the past few years, the relationship between the party and the people has declined and the confidence of the people in the party, cadres, and party members has been seriously hurt. Here there are probably many reasons but in my opinion, they are of two kinds. One lies within the party itself and concerns the role of the masses. When speaking of the party, it is first of all a problem of the role, ability, and quality of the party member. Some of the party members have declined in quality. Things such as bureaucratism, arrogance, oppression of the masses, heartlessness toward hunger, poverty and injustice, corruption, individual arrangements and power abuse, etc. are harming public esteem. Concerning the party, it is dogmatism and rigidity in theory and practice that have stifled the creativity of the masses. It is also erroneous line and policy and voluntarism, and those suffering the consequences are the people with difficulties in life, followed by a cultural, spiritual, and ethical decline. Regarding the people, the bureaucratic system has excluded laborers from the power mechanism, preventing them from playing a role as master of "all authority" as recorded in the Constitution, and replacing this with "thinking of substituting" and "substituting" the people. This is the reason for indifference and coolness toward the work of the country and of society regarding the government.

Renovating the Party and Affirming the True Authority of the People

At the present time, to achieve the objective of renovation and the mission of strengthening the relationship between the party and people, achievement is necessary in my opinion in two basic directions: renovating the party and affirming the true authority of the people.

Renovation of the party is renovation of the party's organization and activity formula, not simply of behavior. Party renovation is to solidify the role and prestige of the party and party member in society and in the hearts of the people, with complete isolation from schemes that decrease the role of the party, and cultivation of a trend toward wholesome criticism of anything not within the glorious nature and tradition of the party.

Renovation first of all is related to the field of party leadership methods and the nature of the relationship between the party and other components of the political system. The party can only lead by organizing, persuading, developing innovation, encouraging the new, and upholding the role of state agencies and social and mass organizations. The party cannot forcibly implement its ideology and decisions.

The party must be fundamentally renovated in organization and the central theme is to achieve democracy within the party. This is not simply to "set an example" but is an internal requirement because whether positions are right or wrong or the ailments of bureaucratism, power abuse, and corruption as stated above remain unresolved or not are first of all due to whether or not the party has a democratic mechanism for developing the collective intelligence of the party and neutralizing or restricting those negative occurrences. On the other hand, renovation of the party is conducted within the overall renovation of the entire political system of which the party is an integral component. Our political system must become a dynamic and effective system to fully reflect the interests of society. This system demands a formula of activity that is new in substance, one with no place for unilateral obedience but a balanced formula of coordinated consultation and mutual action on the basis of benefit and with beneficial motives—economic, social, and political benefits. A new political and legal system that clearly stipulates the political responsibility of each organization and individual in the political system. Under such conditions, renovation of the party and achievement of democracy within the party are not only a reason but also a condition for the party's existence and if the party wishes to maintain the vanguard role of society and the people, and the role of leading the entire political system.

A Correct Understanding of Democracy

Internal party democratization has a decisive significance in determining the process of democratizing our society. It must be further stated here that our task of renovation has been initially determined by the requirement for developing the economy and this in itself is the basic motive force stimulating renovation. However,

primarily because they are looking only at this motive force, not a few party and state organizations and not a few cadres and party members are forming a pragmatic, overly cautious, and superficial inclination of not observing or underestimating social problems and values that must be maintained and affirmed in our society. It must be recognized that democracy is something close, not a "foreign item" to our people, and immediately from the dawn of our system, our people have enthusiastically participated in affirming democracy, even sacrificing their bones and blood to protect democracy, as in the free general election of 1946.

To affirm the authority of the people is to affirm an authority mechanism in which the people are the authentic subject of authority, not an objective of effect following a style of "delving deeply into and maintaining close contact with the people" and listening to the opinions of the masses as a favor. It is not even the "people knowing, the people discussing, the people doing, and the people inspecting" in a generalized fashion, or with a element of "the people doing" and "the people enjoying," and following a method of participation but not playing a decisive role.

Our administration and state are of the people, by the people, and for the people and the paramount factor today is that of "by the people." This is the total clarification of the mastership of our people in state and social management. The basic means for achieving and affirming the authority of the people is to develop the economy, achieve democracy in the economy, and overcome the mechanism of bureaucratism and state subsidization directly from the source. It is primarily the indifference and coolness of the masses, the degeneration of the social aspect, and other than subjective factors such as dogmatism and bureaucratism, also a deep source from within the economy, and from backward and ineffective economic conditions. Under these conditions, our people from different classes and areas cannot understand their role and economic ability, and have no concept of their economic interests. Consequently, they do not fully recognize the need for using political forms and legal tools to satisfy those economic interests.

Strengthening the autonomy of primary level production and business units, and widely achieving democracy in production and management at the primary level, especially in the area of state enterprise, are the very methods aimed at solidifying the position and strength of the worker class. Full achievement of the present agricultural policy and achievement of democracy in the rural area are a firm basis for giving the peasant class their own corresponding position in society. The development of democracy in spiritual life and in creative activities is a premise for elevating the role of the intellectual class. The policy of a multi-component economy and a position creating assurances for the equitable development of different economic elements are presently developing new potentials of society. These are inescapable economic preconditions of democracy and of affirming the authority of the people.

Renovating the Structure and Activity Form of the Authoritative Agency System

Parallel with the mission stated above, for the people to personally achieve their own authority, the election system, the representative system, and the legal position of people's representatives must be renovated. It is necessary to renovate the organization structure, position, and activity form of the system of authoritative agencies from the National Assembly to people's councils at all levels. In my opinion, in this field, the task of affirming public authority that is presently demanding an investment in intelligence of our party and people is aimed at seeking a method of effective state organization and activity. We cannot simply stop at tasks in the nature of "mini-renovation" such as "reducing focal points," "simplifying the apparatus," "strengthening the organization aspect," and "raising the quality of work" for standing committees of the National Assembly as proposed in the program. Renovation of the state's authoritative agencies must produce a result allowing these agencies to fully represent the multifaceted interests of our society, consistent with trend of progress, and giving those agencies the ability and conditions necessary to represent those interests.

Strengthening the authority of the people demands that the law must be of the people, not a tool for maintaining and legalizing the special interests and privileges of the bureaucratic system. To achieve this, the law-making process must be democratic and scientific, must be truly "by the people," and must have a system for supervising compliance with the Constitution and the law during the process of formulating, promulgating and applying the law.

In conjunction with this political and legal system, one task of effective significance for protecting the people, ensuring social discipline, upholding the prestige of the party and state, and causing the people to trust in their own government is to resolutely renovate the system of legal protection agencies in this field following the courses of democracy, humanitarianism, and efficiency.

More decisive measures are necessary in clarifying the ranks of those engaged in protecting the law. This is an important course for firmly ensuring public confidence in the party and the management capability of the state, and for protecting the people of our state apparatus. Regrettably, the program, although touching upon this problem, has not given it the proper level of emphasis, and has not clarified the necessary course, such as the present urgent requirements in our society.

Criticism, Self-Criticism of Leading Party Cadres

902E0173A Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
1 Feb 90 p 3

[Article by Nguyen Van Bieu, Nguyen Ai Quoc Institute]

[Text] Self-criticism and criticism are one of the basic principles of party construction, closely connected with

the revolutionary and scientific nature of Marxist-Leninist theory, a theory rich in a spirit of criticism and revolution.

The self-criticism and criticism of leading cadres must have an attitude of looking straight at, accurately evaluating and clearly stating the truth on their own strengths and weaknesses. This is easy to say but difficult to do because partial exposure of the truth may be detrimental to the prestige and position of the leading cadre. Therefore, many leading cadres do not conduct self-criticism and criticism of their own work and fail to openly admit their own deficiencies to the public. They find ways to conceal or minimize their weaknesses. Previous phases of self-criticism and criticism have shown that many leading cadres were disciplined not through conscientious acknowledgment of their own mistakes and shortcomings but through written accusations or discovery in checks and inspections conducted by upper-echelon party and state agencies. So, why is the quality and effectiveness of self-criticism and criticism by many leading cadres still so low? There are many reasons; but in the final analysis, it is due to individualism. Individualism is expressed in communist arrogance and a lust for power, causing not a few leading cadres to mistakenly believe they can make no mistakes and cannot be replaced. Thus, they do not respect the collective or the opinions of others, especially their subordinates, and do not listen to criticism. Nevertheless, the ineffective achievement of self-criticism and criticism by leading cadres is also because other subordinate organizations and personnel try to save face, are hesitant, dare not struggle straightforwardly with the truth, and have an ideology of "avoiding struggle because they fear it." Another cause must be mentioned, that the system of responsibility of each leading cadre is unclear and inspection, control, and supervision by upper echelons is lacking in the self-criticism and criticism of many leading cadres. Therefore, for highly effective self-criticism and criticism, it is necessary first of all to resist individualism among the leaders themselves and after that, to clarify the system of responsibility of each cadre in a responsible position in order for the masses, cadres, and party members as well as the leaders themselves to understand and to review. At the same time, democracy for the masses, cadres, and party members must be expanded by the most appropriate forms and methods in each unit in order to criticize the leading cadres.

Actual practice has shown that if leading cadres fail to set an example in self-analyzing and criticizing their own job and the overall work and provide little guidance to others in accomplishing this work, it is difficult to hope for effective development of criticism. It is possible to call for criticism and to strictly criticize the mistakes and shortcomings of leading cadres. However, if leading cadres consider criticism as only beneficial to others and not to themselves, appeals to develop criticism of them will receive no response. Consequently, leading cadres must set an example in this aspect. Cadres with position and power who have become bureaucratic, taken the

individual as the highest objective, thirst for fame, covet wealth, live a phony and opportunistic life, deceive the superior and defraud the inferior, oppress the masses, and create a princely life for themselves by forms of illicit income, are all unacceptable and intolerable in our ranks.

Precisely as General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh pointed out, the cadres above have no ability to evaluate and criticize their mistakes and shortcomings, are isolated from the masses, have lost the confidence of party members and masses, and cannot be leading cadres. At the present time, in the self-criticism and criticism of leading cadres, in conjunction with education, measures are also necessary of strictly dealing with leading cadres who make mistakes of a degree requiring this, no matter what their position. The slogan "top first and bottom later, inside first and outside later" is the practical conclusion reached by many party organizations through proper supervision of internal self-criticism and criticism.

The following predictions may be made for the near future:

- Renovation of the political system in our socialist society, including elimination of the system of bureaucracy and state-subsidization, expansion of autonomy, and socialist business accounting.
- The strategic replacement of leading cadres with much revolutionary merit who have become old and of diminished ability by younger cadres who have largely grown up and matured in the socialist revolution.
- With the leadership of the party, the atmosphere of democracy in society and in the party will steadily expand.
- The multifaceted comprehension and standards of the masses, cadres and party members are being increasingly elevated over previous levels.
- The wholesale criticism, dismissal and removal of key leading cadres of fraternal parties will have an effect on our party.

All of the factors above will cause the psychology of fearing and daring not criticize leading cadres to gradually lesson. Not only that, due to their varied interests, especially in the economy, criticism of leading cadres by the masses, cadres, and party members could be much stronger. They could demand replacement of many strategic leading cadres who are old and limited in ability. Consequently, it is necessary to foresee this and to resist the two tendencies below that could occur:

- Unwarranted opposition by some leading cadres to the "wave" of criticism.
- Concealment under the guise of "criticism freedom" to attack leaders, distort Marxism, discredit socialism, and contend for position and authority in replacing the generation of leaders.

Good self-criticism and criticism are an expression of the loyalty of leading cadres to the party, express a concept and spirit of determination to train in becoming worthy as "a leader and loyal servant of the people" as President Ho Chi Minh taught. They are also one of the important standards of a leading cadre in the present revolutionary period.

Meeting of Farmers Association Offers Party Plenum Its Ideas

902E0182A Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
28 Feb 90 pp 1, 4

[Text] On 26 February, the Vietnam Farmers Association (VFA) Central Committee held a meeting to study and contribute ideas to the proposed platform of the 8th Plenum of the CPV Central Committee. A number of VFA cadres at the central, provincial, and municipal levels; many people who used to do farmers-proselyting work; representatives of central committees; and a number of researchers attended the meeting. The ideas brought to the meeting originated from the arguments and realities of the farmer class and the countryside today, as well as the VFA role in persuading farmers to develop production along the socialist line that has been drawn by the party and Uncle Ho.

Farmers and the Countryside—Issues Raised at Meeting

Farmers account for 78 percent of our country's population. This figure has recently been supplied by the census. It means about 50 million people. In addition, in recent years agriculture has really been considered the leading front. To cite these facts is aimed at making everybody see more clearly the role of the farmer class in our country's socialist construction and, attached to it, of the VFA, the sociopolitical organization of this class.

Ngo Duy Dong, a retired cadre, had this to say: "I have observed agricultural production for years and I see that currently we often emphasize that to have a good crop has only been due to adopting 'contract 10.' 'Contract 10' is, of course, good. But one must also see that it has been due to favorable weather and to the material and technical base of agriculture, which has been built and invested in for decades. The central echelon should review both 'contract 100' and 'contract 10.' For in the countryside what is really happening is the role of cooperatives is being lowered and there is a division between rich and poor." Tien, of Nguyen Ai Quoc Institute, offered this opinion: "A correct policy is a moving force behind farmers. In the past decades the weather had been good in some years, bad in other years, but the volume of production had not increased. The important matter has been farmers' interests. It was 'contract 100' and 'contract 10' that helped to resolve the matter. Without 'contract 10,' the party would find it hard to win the confidence of farmers."

Many participants contributed ideas to the following issue: The cost of the paddy produced by farmers was

higher than the selling price. Farmers were unable to stand the situation in which prices of production-end materials, such as seeds, fertilizers, insecticide, electricity, and water, being high and selling prices of paddy being low. The problem having to do with fertilizer prices has recently been resolved. But the price of insecticide remained high: 36,000 dong a kilogram. There was a phenomenon: In spite of infestation by harmful insects, farmers refused to use insecticide because they had figured out that even a lesser volume of production would still be more advantageous than using insecticide.

Professor Tran Ngoc Hien, deputy director of Nguyen Ai Quoc Institute, had this to say: "Any policy affecting farmers must be based on the real situation and realistic. In many localities, farmers request the building of cooperatives, the necessity of which they have realized. The form of cooperativization today is multifaceted and turns the management boards of the olden days into a dynamic machinery that serves and responds to all the production needs of farmers. The VFA must closely observe and fully grasp this matter."

Many people expressed the interest in analyzing the issue of worker-farmer alliance under the new conditions. The hard core of this alliance still involved interests. And this hard-core aspect was being violated. Nguyen Tuan Chat of the Hanoi VFA chapter put it this way: "Prices of farm products are too low while prices of industrial goods are too high. How can we have a worker-farmer alliance when prices of the things bought from farmers are low and those of the things sold to them are high? Farmers still are not treated with fairness by agents of the state who force them to sell at low prices."

Some people thought that it would be necessary to reconsider the view of the commercial and banking sectors on services. In many localities, particularly in the highlands and remote areas, the commercial sector did not provide the goods that farmers needed and refused to buy the goods that they wanted to sell. The fact that the commercial sector was interested only in profits and losses in its business activities was not a favorable one. The sector should know how to act on and encourage production.

Another worrisome issue that many people talked about was the fact that our cultural, spiritual, and information activities were too poor and backward.

The Party, Association, and Farmers

What should the party do to renovate the farmers-proselyting work? How would the VFA conduct its activities in order to fulfill the mission of being the representative of farmers and their sociopolitical organization, and of protecting their legitimate interests? On this issue, Pham Bai, the VFA chairman, had this to say: "The VFA has done much, but what it has done still is not enough, and this includes controlling and checking the implementation of the policies that affect farmers in cooperatives and production units." In the past years,

according to another speaker, the party has failed to show real interest in the farmer class and the VFA organization. It has had the bad habit of turning the mass organizations, including the VFA, into something resembling the party and the administration themselves.

Three speakers—Nguyen Tuan Chat (Hanoi), Nguyen Van Xuan (Haiphong), and Nong Duc Nghinh (Lang Son)—all believed that the VFA organizations at the basic level found it very hard to operate. To put it simply, the VFA has failed to clearly determine its functions and tasks, while it still quarreled with other mass organizations and has been unable to protect the legitimate interests of farmers, nor contributed to raising the people's intellectual and living standards. The situation in which a cadre was simultaneously assuming the chairmanship of three organizations—the VFA, Front, and Red Cross chapters—currently was a common phenomenon. Many people thus raised this issue: It would be necessary to determine clearly and once for all the dividing line between the functions of the VFA and those of other mass organizations in the countryside. An expert of the Department of Mass Agitation of the CPV Central Committee, Nguyen Trung Than, said: "In order to renovate itself and to attract farmers, the association must adopt the 'alliance' form of organization and include smaller associations, such as the associations of gardeners, animal raisers, shrimp farmers, beekeepers, outstanding performers, and so on, and should not aim at just a certain age group because it could easily fall victim to administrative and bureaucratic practices. On the basis of these smaller associations which are profoundly interested in farmers' production, the association can proceed with organizing and gathering more members. By so doing it will feel more attached to farmers."

Many people expressed their concern about and analyzed the issue of democracy in the countryside. Behind the bamboo hedges, farmers have been so often wrongly accused and have had numerous worries. In many localities, they were oppressed and mistreated, but they could complain to nobody. Some farmers who had made complaints found that their letters were returned to their localities after having been sent away because nobody would resolve their problems. They had to get together in a group and to go to the provincial and central authorities to ask for intervention, a fact that led to an erosion of farmers' confidence in the party. The party itself would have to clean up the ranks of its own cadres and members and its basic-level organizations in the countryside. At present, more than 1 million party members are active in rural party bases. Some people said that "our clan's party chapter" was a very common situation in the countryside. Furthermore, there have appeared the so-called "our clans' party organizations" which have paralyzed the fighting power of party organizations and seriously reduced party prestige among the masses. Chat recounted the following: "In a rural Hanoi village, farmers signed a letter of complaint against a cooperative regarding 13 incidents. The local party committee

echelons and administration considered their action a troublemaking. These farmers did not believe so. The VFA helped to clarify the situation. As a result, a single incident remained to be resolved but in 12 others the farmers were found to have been correct." And so what interests would the basic-level party organizations, administration, and cadres and party members serve—the interests of the party, farmers, or individuals? Cadres doing work for the VFA should be improved, too. Cadres must come from the mass movement and enjoy the confidence of farmers. We should absolutely avoid indiscriminately using cadres or forcing their use on the people.

The party and farmers, and vice versa—this relationship must be truly close, with one being of and for the other. In order to achieve this, Nguyen Thi Hue, deputy chairman of the VFA, proposed the following to the party in the name of farmers all over the countryside:

1. The VFA is the sociopolitical organization of the Vietnamese farmer class, represents the interests of farmers, and reinforces the latter's ownership capabilities. It is the principal means to gather the feelings and wishes of farmers and to make them known to the party and the state for their study and solution.
2. To organize and monitor the emulation movement in the countryside, to guide farmers toward making money for themselves, to help the poorer households, to urge farmers to take part in consolidating, building, and developing the cooperativization movement in appropriate forms and steps, and to build the new countryside.
3. To take part in building, controlling, and overseeing implementation of all positions and policies having to do with farmers in order to ensure democracy and social justice.

To the state the following was proposed as an immediate step:

1. To eliminate the system of paying tuition and institute fees in favor of poor farmers; to eliminate the payment of some state subsidies to cadres.
2. To consider and resolve promptly, openly, and fairly wrong accusations against farmers and complaints by farmers, which are now quite common in the countryside.
3. To study and immediately set up a system of price allowance in agriculture to deal with the costs of electric power and insecticide; to invest in the material base for communications and water conservancy in the highlands, and for processing of farm and forest products and goods so as to contribute to maintaining price balance and investing in agriculture.
4. To adopt positive and effective measures to allow party committee echelons and administrations to be interested in building and consolidating the VFA. In villages the situation of assuming several positions must come to an end. The VFA must assign its own people to

be in charge and maintain the quotas it is allowed to have in compliance with Decision 111 of the Council of Ministers. The state must institutionalize the VFA by adopting appropriate laws and ensure its operating in accordance with the functions and tasks recommended for it.

Improving Quality of Leading Cadres at Grassroots Level

902E0174 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese
1 Feb 90 p 3

[Article by Tien Hai]

[Text] The key leading cadres at the grassroots level are individuals with the greatest responsibility in party and state aspects in the local area, such as village and subward party committee secretaries and people's committee chairmen, party secretaries and directors of business and production facilities and professional agencies and units, and commanders and party committee secretaries of battalion and regimental-level units in the armed forces.

Actual practice has shown that key leading cadres at the grassroots level have an extremely important position, often of decisive significance to the movement because they are the forces engaged in daily operations leadership and command and directly applying the line and policy of the party and state to actual practice, and are the nucleus force maintaining solidarity and unity within the party organization, party chapter and among the people. Upper echelons primarily rely on these ranks to put party and state line and policy into living practice. In some cases, party members and the masses at the grassroots level are of relatively good quality but because of incorrect deployment of key leading cadres, the movement is substandard but clearly changes when these key leading cadres are replaced.

At the Fourth Party Congress, notable progress was made in building and streamlining the ranks of key leading cadres at the grassroots level. It may be said that basically, we have rejuvenated the ranks of key leading cadres, replaced many cadres with shortcomings, a lack of combat will and inability to meet the requirements of their assigned mission, and promoted and posted many cadres with quality, ability, and confidence.

However, a strict review still reveals many deficiencies. These are: during the past, because many locations replaced cadres at a too rapid rate, the relative stability of the key leading cadre ranks at the grassroots level was destroyed. Also because of this excessively rapid replacement which failed to maintain close contact with cadre projections, we still lack cadres with the necessary knowledge and profound experience. The selection, projection, and training of key leading cadres at the grassroots level has no clear course. The source of key leadership cadres at the village level consists of 70 percent demobilized troops with no basic training. The subwards and towns usually bring cadres from other

locations with no one from the local area, or primarily rely on the ranks of retired cadres. Enterprise party committee secretaries are largely comprised of full-time deputy directors (with no full-time party committee secretaries); and their party work experience and knowledge are generally weak. In short, key leading cadres at the grassroots level still lack in-depth professionalism in their assigned official responsibilities. This is the basic weakness of key leading cadre ranks at the grassroots level at the present time.

In order to streamline and improve the quality of key leading cadres at the grassroots level, it is naturally necessary to simultaneously deal with a series of issues, including attention to the following:

One is to truly clearly define the standards of key leading cadre ranks at the grassroots level. The most general and also the highest standard for every key leading cadre at the grassroots level is the need to respond to the renovation task. This standard is specifically expressed in the requirements of quality, ability and work efficiency of each individual. A key leading cadre with a quality of responding to the renovation task is an individual with the determination and ability to achieve the renovation undertaking, who must be straightforward and loyal, dare to speak and think, know how to work, and dare to bear responsibility. Words go with actions, actions more than words, with creative dynamism and a spirit of democracy. Regular self-criticism and criticism with a concept of disciplined organization, firm relations with the masses, and a clean and wholesome life. In the aspect of ability, renovation demands that the key leading cadre at the grassroots level be skilled at his job, thoroughly understand party line, and know how to solidify that line in actual activity at the grassroots level, know how to manage and direct work, and know how to conduct party work and work among the masses. Work efficiency must be expressed in the volume and quality of work attained by that individual and the effect of that work in actual practice.

On the basis of such general requirements, it is necessary to solidify and clearly set the standards of each type of key leading cadre position in each grassroots level form.

Two is, on the basis of standardizing each key leading cadre position at each different form of grassroots level during the immediate period, echelons and sectors must continue to examine and reevaluate those ranks, promptly replace cadres not meeting mission requirements, those intentionally committing errors, etc., or not executing the line, policy, and law of the party and state; and those with major mistakes and shortcomings in behavior, ethical quality and way of life, with a loss of confidence among the masses.

Three is that key leading cadres at the grassroots level are all individuals with position and power within a fixed domain. Consequently, along with raising their standards and knowledge, special attention must be given to educating and training in policy quality for these ranks,

assisting them to maintain close contact with the masses; to respect the masses, and to properly achieve the system of democracy, openness, and social equality.

Four is that leading cadres at the present time, especially those in the rural area, suffer from a severe shortage of information. More often than not, their information is inaccurate and distorted. Therefore, it is necessary to systematically supply full, accurate, regular, and oriented information to key leading cadres at the grassroots level. With full, accurate, and correct information, key leading cadres will be equipped with the necessary data to analyze, criticize, predict, and forecast; and from that, make correct and timely decisions.

Finally, timely motivation and a unified and satisfactory subsidy policy for key leading cadres in administrative units (villages, subwards, and towns) are necessary to ensure that their income levels, first of all people's committee chairmen and village party committee secretaries, are not lower than those of district and ward-level bureau and committee chiefs. Actual practice has shown that fairly many key leading cadres at the grassroots level (especially in the rural area) are discontented and uninterested about their job because their income is too low and they are unable to ensure the lives of their families. Meanwhile, if single-minded in their work, truly incorruptible and extremely busy, they are constantly afflicted with a syndrome of being considered a class of "new tyrants." This obstacle to the ideology of key leading cadres ranks in the rural area must be promptly overcome.

MILITARY

Party, People's Role in Building Militia, Self-Defense Forces

902E0188A Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN
in Vietnamese 20 Feb 90 pp 1, 4

[By Maj Gen Vu Van Ba, director of the Militia and Self-Defense Forces Department]

[Excerpt] During the past few years, under the leadership of the party, the militia and self-defense forces have been built up extensively in every section of the country with new developments in quantity, quality, staff organization and equipment.

Through practice in construction, operational activity, public order and security, combat support and production labor, especially through wars on the northern and southwestern frontiers, the militia and self-defense forces in many local areas and primary level units have developed a nucleus role for all the people in combat and combat support: joining the main-force troops, local troops, and all the people to defeat the aggressive and encroaching attacks of the enemy, and to firmly protect the fatherland's frontier.

Along with other specialized forces and all the people, the militia and self-defense forces have promptly suppressed counterrevolutionaries, swept away remnant forces, smashed subversive and rebellious activities, firmly protected the fruits of the revolution, and protected the party, the government at the primary level, and the people; and have independently and in coordination with other forces annihilated and captured many infiltrating enemy spy and raider teams; and halted illegal border crossings and sea departures. Millions of militia and self-defense personnel have been mobilized to participate on the production labor front, truly an assault force, especially in the prevention and control of natural disasters and in overcoming the consequences of war.

The militia and self-defense forces have qualified as a primary specialized tool and have earned the trust of the party and the government at the primary level, and the confidence of the people.

Implementing the resolution of the Sixth Party Congress, local areas and sectors have given greater attention to strengthening and raising the quality of militia and self-defense forces, especially their political quality; and their organization, staffing, and equipment have been readjusted consistent with the new situation and mission. However, through actual examination of more than 25 percent of primary level militia and self-defense units throughout the country, the size of these forces is great but their quality is low; and in many locations, their political reliability is not yet truly ensured. Political and ideological education, management, and daily activities are lax; levels of political awareness are low and vigilance, combat will, and concept of responsibility have declined; staffing and organization models are in form only; and the quality of training and results of operational and public security and order activities are still low. All echelons have at times organized and used militia and self-defense forces in an arbitrary manner, not in keeping with principle and in violation of the law. Leading cadre ranks at the primary level have not been given the proper level of concern, have not been stabilized and their levels of ability are restricted.

Confronted with the true situation of the militia and self-defense force movement and the new mission requirements in national defense and security, the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers held a nationwide conference in July 1989 on building and managing the mobilized reserve and building the militia and self-defense forces at the primary level. The conference agreed on a number of basic issues on evaluating the situation of mobilized reserve forces and the militia and self-defense force movement during the past few years; affirmed the strategic position and mission role, and designated the course for building the reserve forces and the militia and self-defense forces in the years to come.

After the nationwide conference, many local areas, ministries, and sectors of the state developed a thorough understanding of party directives and resolutions on

building the militia and self-defense forces, created an initial change in comprehension of all echelons and sectors, and strengthened militia and self-defense force organization along a course of reducing quantity, increasing quality, and achieving more consistent staff organization. At the same time, changes made in supervising the activity of militia and self-defense forces to answer the immediate mission of effectively coping with the enemy's strategy of multifaceted sabotage, to preserve security and order at the primary level, and to implement Directive 135 of the Council of Ministers and Joint Circular 785 of the Ministries of National Defense and Interior, have produced initial results. However, only a few localities have done well in creating the change; and in many, development and thorough understanding have not been profound or uniform. In supervising the consolidation of militia and self-defense force organization, emphasis on consolidating quality and reducing quantity have been correct but some basic units have reduced the population ratio to below one percent with even .35 percent in some locations. Some localities and primary level units have still not consolidated and still maintain the original militia and self-defense force population ratio at the seven to eight percent level. In organizing and using militia and self-defense forces in a mission to preserve order and security, many locations have not thoroughly understood or acted precisely in accordance with the joint National Defense-Interior Ministry circular, some locations have organized the militia and self-defense forces, public security forces and civil defense personnel into one entity, some have even placed all personnel and weapons of the militia and self-defense forces previously in a national defense-security detachment under public security management and command, etc. The ranks of leading military cadres at the primary level have not only not been consolidated and streamlined along a stable course with sufficient numbers and increased quality, but have an inclination toward shrinking, with some places cutting military deputy billets by up to half and transferring the billets and responsibilities of village and subward unit leaders to vice chairmen and public security chiefs. At the present time, more than 50 percent of the subwards still have no subward unit leader, and 60 percent of the primary level self-defense units of state sectors have no professional or semiprofessional military cadres.

Because we presently advocate a reduction in the regular army but not a halt in bolstering strength to protect the fatherland to effectively cope with every enemy plot and activity, building the mobilized reserve force and the militia and self-defense forces has become extremely important and urgent; they are core of the mission to build a national defense of all the people at the primary level and a reliable force to protect the party organization and the people's government, and to protect the fruits of the revolution and the lives of the people at the primary level.

On the basis of thoroughly understanding the Political Bureau resolution on the national defense mission, the

directive of the Secretariat on the course and mission of building the militia and self-defense forces during the years to come is to: strive to build a strong and extensive militia and self-defense force of high quality and suitable size with a firm grasp of the guideline of primarily increasing quality, first of all political quality; concentrate on consolidating and building a nucleus combat force while simultaneously formulating a plan for managing and firmly controlling widespread combat support forces ready to develop and expand in the event of war. Emphasize construction of militia and self-defense forces in key regions, first of all the border and island regions, in regions where basic political units are thin and weak, and in important areas along the coast and in the interior. Militia and self-defense forces must be appropriately staffed, receive good political and military training, and have firm management and daily activities; allowing them to truly be a strategic force and the primary specialized tool of the government at the primary level with sufficient strength to successfully accomplish the following missions:

1. To join the public security forces, other specialized forces and all the people in effectively coping with the enemy's strategy of total sabotage, to be ready to cope with any eventualities, and to maintain political security and social order and safety in the local area and at the primary level.
2. To coordinate in building a strong and extensive militia and self-defense force relying on construction of a strong and total political base with gradual establishment of a people's war disposition in the local area and at the primary level, and to ensure in cases of enemy aggression to effectively strike the enemy from the very beginning, and to create conditions for coordinating with other forces in defeating enemy forces, firmly protecting the fatherland, and protecting the local area.
3. To set the example and to truly be an assault force in executing the political, economic, and social missions in the local area and at the primary level.

For every citizen to have sufficient conditions for participating in the militia and self-defense forces, service in these forces must be on a rotational basis, and this is also a way to achieve social equality in obligations to protect the fatherland when the number of annual recruits is not as large as before, and to create a new on-site combat strength when the regular army is reduced.

Militia and self-defense force staff organization must be consistent with administrative unit organization and closely connected with production, trade sector, and topographic speciality organization for convenience in management, and peacetime and wartime command; using the hamlet, mountain village, shop, agency, ward, ship, etc. as the organizational unit. Have the necessary infantry and branch units; and have stationary and mobile forces (this is the basic organization of the militia and self-defense forces).

Staff organization size must be effective, orderly, strong, and consistent with the nature, characteristics, and attack methods of the militia and self-defense forces. The militia is organized into squads and platoons, and in locations where conditions exist and necessary, into companies; and the self-defense forces are organized into squads, platoons and companies, and in places where conditions exist and necessary, into branch battalions. In self-defense force organization, forces must be established at factories, mines, work sites, state farms and state forests, and in communications and transportation, construction, posts and telecommunications, public health, etc. sectors. In sectors concerned with requirements for army mobilization, study in the organization of specialized sector self-defense forces must be conducted. Professional administrative agencies and research institutes must organize where necessary with no absolute need for every location to do so.

Consolidating and streamlining the ranks of military leaders at the primary level is a extremely important and urgent mission at the present time, with a decisive significance to the strength of militia and self-defense force organization in the new situation. Therefore, a uniform and proper level of concern must be given to a rational and stable structure for 5 years and up with the ability and sufficient strength to meet the needs of the military mission at the primary level at the present time; with village and subward military commands of three people, including two full-time military cadres (one commander and one military deputy specialized in mobilization work). The party committee (or party chapter) secretary will serve concurrently at the political officer (in accordance with the mechanism). The primary level military commands of state sectors consist of three individuals, a commander who is also concurrently the director, deputy director or agency chief; a political officer who is also concurrently the party committee (or party chapter) secretary; and a military deputy who is a professional or semiprofessional cadre. [passage omitted]

Encouraging Civilian Input in Maintaining Military Discipline

902E0186B Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN
in Vietnamese 18 Feb 90 p 2

[Article by Duc Khanh]

[Text] It may be said that democratic activity is beginning and is expressed by increasing numbers of the masses who know about, discuss, engage in, and inspect every field of social life. In building powerful units and raising the combat strength of the army in the new situation, we cannot help but mention the regular contribution of opinions and criticisms from party committee and administrative echelons and the local people. Public thought and concern for the soldier has always been a responsibility, principle, and fine indication in the task of maintaining country and home.

When the country has an enemy, all the people take up arms. At that time, the combat "has no rear area or front line." Anyone standing outside the fight is isolated and alone. Those bearing arms, no matter where, are fondly accepted, cared for, and provided loving and impartial assistance. At that time, the measurement of strength is victory. To achieve victory, the people are prepared to sacrifice everything. Their sacrifice is truly simple and natural without trifling calculations or great discussion. Today, confronted with countless confusing tasks, the soldier has a great need for both material and spiritual care, and for both encouragement and critical reminders. Such seemingly common things are not a bit easy. Here, there is responsibility for both the army and the people.

Occasionally in a number of primary level units of groups 37, 55, 38, 08, Song Thao, etc., some "difficulties" have occurred in military-civilian relations. Because some specific incidents were not handled correctly, relations between the military and civilians have become indistinct. Even the cadres in charge have been reluctant to or have rarely met with local cadres and compatriots to exchange opinions on the situation. There are command cadres who underrate local cadres, especially in those locations with weak political units, a substandard economic life and backward customs. Actually, there are command levels who believe their units are a separate "domain" in which no civilian or sector of the law has the authority to interfere or inspect, even when illegalities occur. In Area H on the [omitted] border, trucks hauling illegal cargo run into military units to avoid inspection by responsible agencies.

What about the local areas? Many exaggerated statistics are unnecessary. Actually, it must be admitted that not a few leadership and administrative echelons have not been positive toward the troop units stationed in their local area. When an incident occurs, those in position and power have a concept that the unit commander must undoubtedly come to "request opinions." During the past few years, some localities have presented several different reasons and by many different forms (letters, official correspondence, meetings, orders, etc.) have demanded the return of the land upon which troops are stationed. Some locations have even requested that the troops be transferred elsewhere in order to build projects and roads, open stores, etc.

Meetings and discussions have been held under many different forms, including professional seminars, and the mass media has been used to find valid ways of strengthening military-civilian relations and to achieve a single purpose. The methods used can differ but one thing must be admitted, that in the primary level unit, regular contact, exchange of opinions and input from the masses is both a means and a method, and an impetus for strengthening close military-civilian relations and building a powerful unit. The Capital Military Region has a good method of organizing a procedure for acquiring input from the local area. Quarterly, units hold a conference of leadership and command cadres from units stationed in the local area to hear local party committee and administrative echelons

disseminate party and state positions and policies, information on regulations, tasks completed, problems requiring examination and solution, etc. On that basis, the two sides exchange opinions and formulate plans for coordinating specific activity. Units H46, M23, Ta Sanh, Dac To, Tu Vu, etc. monthly or quarterly send their leaders and commanders down to the local area to request input from local party committee and administrative echelons and mass organizations on the disciplinary situation and military-civilian relations, and to join in exchanging opinions and announcing matters that must be discussed and accomplished. The party committees and chapters of units above give special attention to mass mobilization and acquiring input from people in areas where troops are stationed, considering this a theme for managing and training cadres and party members and building a powerful unit. Thanks primarily to the input from local people, efforts have been made to halt, detect and correctly prosecute the right person for the right matter in many cases of cadres and soldiers violating military discipline and military-civilian relations. In a number of specific circumstances, the contribution (including proposals for a course of resolution) of local party committee and administrative echelons and compatriots have had no small effect, assisting soldiers to return to their proper position as an arms bearer and to tighten the military-civilian relationship, enabling both the military and the people to feel peace of mind, closeness and confidence. In groups 25, 46, and Tu Vu, nearly 80 percent of the suggestions made by civilians to the military regarding disciplinary violations were found through inspection to be the truth. During 1989, the ratio of violations in military-civilian relations amounted to nearly eight percent of all disciplinary violations, a reduction of almost 50 percent over the previous year. Although statistics are still incomplete, they indicate that due to many effects, including increased coordination with local areas by leadership and command echelons, and efforts by the people to provide constructive input, the management and education of military personnel and construction of powerful units have been effectively achieved.

Maintaining close contact with the people and striving for the multifaceted assistance of areas in which troops are stationed are constantly new lessons in disciplinary management and construction of powerful units.

Uneven Conscription Results in Hanoi

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in Vietnamese 15 Feb 90 pp 1, 4

[Article by Thanh Hung]

[Excerpt] Hanoi during the past several years has been highly rated in military conscription work, especially since the first drive in 1982—in compliance with the new Military Draft Law. Through 15 conscription drives, Hanoi has not only fully met assigned quotas but has also ensured the rapid, economical, safe and spirited delivery of troops. Many wards, districts, towns and basic units have continuously maintained and developed the tradition of "not being short a single man." Hanoi has also

gained much practical experience and is striving to make the work a procedure, to limit the number of weak units and to create uniformity. The general evaluation at this time is that the results of this task are not yet truly firm.

Compared with other provinces and cities throughout the nation, there is not a great difference in the number of youths annually conscripted in Hanoi to build the army and protect the fatherland. Since 1988, the number of annually conscripted youths has declined and the quality is much higher. The situation was the same for the first drive of 1990: the quota was less than previous years but conscripts were primarily 18 to 24 years old with elementary and higher school educations. No students attending B system colleges (unconventional) of the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education received draft waivers. No youths in trades essential to the army in excess of 25 years old were taken.

During more than the past two months, the military draft councils of wards, districts and towns within the city have issued orders directing youths of enlistment age to appear for physical examinations. The number presenting themselves for these examinations reached 81.36 percent (with 59.9 percent meeting the category A health level). Noteworthy was that the percentages of youths complying with the physical examination order in various localities differed greatly. Phuc Tho District attained 93.2 percent while Me Linh District only had 55.6 percent, and Me Tri Village (of Tu Liem District) attained only 8.9 percent, the lowest in the city.

To ensure mission completion, the Municipal Military Draft Council must take a number of precautions.

The quality of conscripted youths from Hanoi unfortunately has not a few points requiring discussion. On a recent investigation of new soldiers from Hanoi assigned to Chi Lang Corps [binh doan], we were informed by Tran Dinh Giai, the corps deputy commander and chief of staff, that the corps during 1989 received nearly 3,000 soldiers from the capital, including 223 from the inner city. Due to many reasons and influences, more than 30 percent deserted under several different forms, and the number who have returned to their units is not great.

We analyzed the reasons in hopes of finding the responsible party. Not a few times, we heard units state that local areas are primarily responsible due to poor selections; and local areas state that unit management is bad, subsistence is poor, etc. Actually, the responsibility lies in many directions.

—Military draft councils at various local levels are pressured by “numbers” and “quotas” and occasionally the quality of conscript selection is neglected. Experience has shown that to complete the conscription task while meeting quality and time requirements, it is necessary to firmly ascertain the number of youths of stipulated military draft law age, and to coordinate with street public security personnel, neighborhood teams and mass organizations at the primary level for standardized selection. On the other

hand, rosters of those conscripted must be publicized, along with the rosters of those with service and draft deferments and waivers to encourage youths to conscientiously appear for examination, especially the sons of leading cadres, party members and cadres with position and power. Along with propaganda and education on the Military Draft Law, strict achievement of physical examinations and enlistment record reviews are necessary. Unfortunately, not many primary level military draft councils have successfully achieved the preparatory steps above, and some locations are still conscripting politically substandard youths. In some places, the sons of individuals in position and power have suddenly received draft deferments to engage in cooperative labor overseas.

—Social influences from many directions on the youths: Army rear area work, employment for those completing their military service, social equality, resolution of negative occurrences in enlistment physicals, handling of desertions, disregard for the law, and loose discipline have caused the men much concern and confusion.

—The youths: Along with those with a good understanding of their honor and responsibility to protect the fatherland and build the army, not a few are reluctant to train, fear hardship, have a passion for material life and selfish privilege, and neglect the law.

—Education: In the education of youths to correctly understand the objective and meaning of and to comply with the Military Draft Law, the work of schools and mass organizations, especially the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, to teach youth the law and a concept of protecting the fatherland prior to enlistment has not been good. After becoming soldiers with a special mission of readiness to sacrifice their lives to protect the fatherland, their care and subsistence is not good. With a daily subsistence level of 844 dong at present prices, ensuring the lives of the troops is difficult.

—The units: The militarist neglect of soldiers has not ended. Despite an order forbidding it, a number of company and battalion-level cadres are still forcing soldiers to take turns in family economic work for a monthly fee. Men from poor rural families not only suffer standard and system losses but are unable to raise sufficient funds to “pay” the command, and a number have fled their units. [passage omitted]

Weapons Department Official Interviewed

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in Vietnamese 27 Feb 90 p 2

[Interview with Lt. Col. Vu Thieu Binh, chief of the Weapons Bureau, Weapons Department, Ministry of National Defense, by QUAN DOI NHAN DAN Correspondent Tran Ho Bac; date and place not given]

[Text] [Correspondent Bac] Under conditions in which the main force corps [binh doan] are redeploying and repositioning; and many units are being disbanded or reduced in size, how do you evaluate the maintenance of weapons and ammunition by the entire army during the past year?

[Lt. Col. Binh] In reviewing 1989, we can happily see that despite many changes and difficulties in the material base, greater attention was given to maintenance throughout the army. In all units, there were enough maintenance personnel to store the still serviceable arms, equipment and ammunition and this has been done. Only a small number of unserviceable weapons and pieces of equipment remain for repair and maintenance during 1990. Thus, we have reduced the deterioration rate of weapons and equipment and will have gradually ended this condition when all weapons and equipment are repaired, stored, and maintained to meet technical requirements and the maintenance logs are reconsolidated.

The maintenance results during the past year were a great effort, expressing the high disciplinary nature of cadres and men at all levels and sectors in strict compliance with the orders of upper echelons, including compliance with Directive 224 of the Ministry of National Defense on weapons and equipment maintenance. Through this achievement, the cadres and men have upheld a sense of responsibility and a spirit of collective ownership of property assigned them for management by the people.

[Correspondent Bac] A concerning situation at this time is the use of weapons by criminals to commit crimes against those engaged in carrying out their official functions. What do you think about this phenomenon? What is the reason for these losses with the weapons falling into the hands of bad elements?

[Lt. Col. Binh] I am aware that many weapons are now in the hands of criminals, not only pistols, hand grenades and daggers but even submachine guns and AK rifles. This is an extremely serious loss of social safety.

In our country, only the armed forces (comprising the public security forces, army, militia, and self-defense forces) may be equipped with weapons. Weapons are not considered commodities to be freely displayed and sold as in a number of capitalist countries. The theft of weapons and their transfer to unsavory recipients is due to many shortcomings in leading sector management agencies.

The cause of this situation is objective. In my opinion however, it is basically because our management is still loose with many loopholes leading to "leaks" and losses of weapons and equipment.

Our management standards are still weak, right from the training step. There are presently no management courses in the technical schools. Even the task of management is not thoroughly understood. Lessons on management in the schools are still slanted toward guidance on logbook maintenance. Meanwhile, our logbooks constantly change in accordance with the management

requirements of each period. Therefore, each unit presently has a great many different and inconsistent kinds of logs, causing difficulty in the work.

Directly managing weapons and ammunition are the ranks of cadres, technical personnel and protection forces. At this time however, these individuals are both short (in numbers) and weak (in quality). Some dumps managing hundreds of tons of ammunition have only two guards. They are unable to patrol and stand guard round the clock as regulations stipulate. Many units, due to a shortage of specialists and professional personnel with management experience, must mobilize vehicle, tank, and even rear services sector cadres to serve as ammunition, arms, and explosives dump custodians. Although responsible and enthusiastic, due to their lack of professional understanding, they make technical mistakes, logbook entries are arbitrary, repairs are handled slowly, and losses are not promptly detected. From this, the units easily develop loopholes that unsavory individuals can exploit.

Forty nine percent of the infantry weapons are provided to the militia and self-defense forces. For many years however, the weapons department has been unable to "reach them." There are no separate logbooks for the militia and self-defense forces; when arms are issued to cooperatives, production teams, and shops, amounts are not entered; and when an individual changes jobs or residences, the transfer is not recorded. In one case, a family dismantling and repairing a house found an AK rifle. Actually, a daughter in the original family was a militia platoon leader and was issued the weapon. However, when she married, she forgot, no one else remembered, and the weapon remained in the rafters.

Another reason must be emphasized—the concept of vigilance, spirit of responsibility, and love for maintaining weapons, equipment, and public property of a number of our cadres and men. Some go on assignment or leave carrying a pistol and due to negligence, have their equipment and even their weapon taken by dishonest individuals. Others, tempted by material things, have conspired with adverse elements on the outside to take advantage of management shortcomings to steal weapons and explosives, spirit them outside and sell them for a profit.

All of the causes above result in losses of weapons and equipment and adversely affect the army's combat strength and its ability to complete the mission.

To halt this situation, along with efforts of the sector in charge, a great need exists for the concern, investment, aid, support, and developed responsibility of all sectors, echelons, local areas, mass organizations, etc. regarding the property, equipment, and combat capabilities of the armed forces. As the agency responsible for supervising the weapons sector, we will strengthen management measures. Only by coordinating weapons management with personnel management is it possible to avoid these negative occurrences.

[Correspondent Bac] Those are tasks of a long-term nature; what immediate missions does the weapons and ammunition sector have to strengthen management?

[Lt. Col. Binh] Because the budget for technical maintenance has been reduced, calculations indicate that funds will meet only about 50 percent of requirements. This is a difficulty. However, with its responsibility and traditions of self-sufficiency, the sector will strive to complete its political mission. That is to firmly manage the quantity, quality, and uniformity of serviceable weapons and ammunition, to store them in dumps, and to equip units to answer changes in the situation and plan when ordered by upper echelons; and to streamline tactical and strategic level weapons and ammunition dumps in all directions, precisely in accordance with ministry designs, ensuring that weapons in storage are good, in sufficient numbers, uniform, stacked, arranged, and sealed for maintenance precisely in accordance with requirements. Ammunition dumps must be divided into lots with sufficient berms of the proper type in accordance with regulations, along with management logbooks and periodic propellant testing. Maintenance and repair work must be promoted to overcome any existing faulty equipment. Particularly regarding ammunition, faulty rounds must be separated, dismantled and handled precisely in accordance with safety regulations, stamping out all "hot spots" that could cause an explosion. Promote practice and training, especially in rules and regulations on use and maintenance, for all the cadres and men. Provide advance training in management and technical assurance for dump units throughout the army, and gradually raise the level of weapons and ammunition management. Perfect the system regulations of the sector, with reports submitted to the ministry. From that, form a consistent and unified system of management logbooks.

Reviewing Military Training in HCM City Higher Schools

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in Vietnamese 16 Feb 90 p 2

[Article by Colonel Dinh Xuan Nghiem]

[Text] On 10 May 1979 and 27 December 1979, the premier (now Council of Ministers chairman) issued directives 200-TTg and 387-TTg to put military training and training and advanced training of reserve officers into the formal curricula of colleges and higher schools and to declare that such training be one of the training tasks of these schools. In the end of 1979 and in 1980, Military Region 7 alone transferred 40 officers to colleges where they set up military teams or departments. In 1983, with the cooperation of the Military Region 7 command, the Engineer Officers School and Army Officers School 2 officially opened military training courses at Ho Chi Minh City's Teachers College, Polytechnic College, City University, and School of Medicine and Pharmacy.

In the 10 years after military training and training of reserve officers were set up in the colleges and higher schools of Ho Chi Minh City, tens of thousands of students have completed their level-two military program; more than 2,300 recognized graduates have been conferred the ranks of specialized and technical reserve officers, as well as reserve officers in charge of military training for general middle school students; and more than 100 female graduates have become reserve officers in medicine and pedagogy.

The fact that military education and reserve officers' training were made an official part of curricula has brought about realistic results: Students and schools have directly learned the awareness of and responsibilities for the defense of the fatherland, and at the same time, students have acquired the specific military knowledge allowing them to fulfill the assigned military obligation. In the last few years, with the needs for combat and for building the armed forces in Military Region 7, every year many specialized and technical reserve officers, who had been trained in colleges and had voluntarily joined the army, became regular officers. They were present on all battlefields in the region and fulfilled the international task in Cambodia. Everywhere they successfully carried out their task and maintained and further displayed the fine traditions of the army and their college. Many models have been known, such as physicians-reserve officers Nguyen Thanh Tuan, Nguyen Chi Cuong, Nguyen Manh Tien, and Do Duc Tin, who served on Battlefront 479; Captain Dr. Tran Kim Bang, First Lieutenant Dr. Ngo Duong Huan, First Lieutenant Dr. Ngo Thanh Hien, and Captain Engineer Tran Thanh Long, who served on Battlefront 779, have fulfilled their task and have returned home. Many others, who are working with the Technical Department, Rear Services Department, Military Medical Middle School, and Hospital 7A (Military Region 7), have been fulfilling their task well. Almost all reserve officers who are still serving in the army have enjoyed the confidence of their unit, have been commended and promoted to higher ranks, and have been admitted to the CPV.

During the war of liberation on the southwestern border (1977-1979), many professors and students of the Ho Chi Minh City Polytechnic College went to the border to study and to repair hundreds of mine detectors and communications equipment, which allowed the Military Region 7 armed forces to score victory. During the same period, 15 colleges and higher schools in the municipality had thousands of applications from those students who wanted to join the army in order to defend the southwestern border and to help our friends. That was the result of the schools' overall education, in which the military training had been playing a very important role. The Polytechnic College, School of Medicine and Pharmacy, Teachers College, City University, Thu Duc Technical Teachers College, and many other colleges succeeded in building the military way of living, training their students in disciplinary and wholesome living, and greatly reducing losses and troubles in their school.

Almost all schools assigned students to be on duty in classrooms, to report to instructors according to military rules, and to be polite to faculty members and to maintain proper behavior toward their fellow students. Many schools got high scores during evaluation thanks to the movement for military training and learning, which helped to improve the quality of specialized training.

In a training course for reserve officers offered by the local military school of Ho Chi Minh City as its regular annual activity, of the 60 reserve officers who attended it 30 were holding key positions, such as bureau and office chiefs and deputy chiefs, technical team leaders, and so on, and all of them were members of the militia and self-defense commands in their organs, enterprises, and schools. Many reserve officers who were retained to work in the school after having completed this course have been assigned to be commanders of self-defense companies and battalions. All of them succeeded in displaying proper military behavior and maintaining a strict sense of discipline. The students' self-defense units proved themselves a remarkable force by taking part in the effective defense and maintaining of order and security for the municipality and school, and in defeating the enemy's strategy of total sabotage at the basic level.

However, beside the above-mentioned achievements, the efforts to include military training and training of reserve officers in the curricula of colleges in the municipality and to establish military departments in these schools did encounter hostile ideas. A number of students, teaching cadres, management cadres, and even leading cadres did not agree to this correct position. Many students did not really like military training. In a number of schools, military teaching and training was quite superficial, with quality remaining poor. Therefore, there was a need for continuing to promote a profound understanding of the position of the party and the state, the interministerial position, in order to improve the quality of training of reserve officers and military training at the basic level for students and college students.

On the other hand, about the reserve officers system in recent years, because of the adverse effects of the situation and a lack of a total understanding of the matter and a close coordination among military and civilian organs, we failed to carry out properly the management, training, and education of those reserve officers who have been assigned to work in organs and localities.

In order to improve the quality of military training, we must first of all fully understand this goal: to closely combine military training with the teaching of patriotism, socialist ideals, national traditions, and the army's fine traditions and nature; to make students enthusiastic for military learning; and to promote aspirations for entering a military career. Military instructors are the hard core of the faculties to teach the sense of discipline and to maintain the military way of living in colleges.

About training methods, we must closely link together theory and practice and make sure that students have a profound grasp of principles and theories and at the same time remain outstanding in the practice. The military teaching and learning methods must be truly democratic and aimed at developing to a high degree students' sense of responsibility, independence, and creativity.

In the 10 years after the colleges and higher schools in Ho Chi Minh City included military training and training of reserve officers in their official curricula they have scored good results and have contributed to producing a body of good science-technology, economic management, professional, and specialized cadres. At the same time, they have produced a large body of reserve officers, who contribute to preparing for the military potential, and have responded well to the task of building the armed forces, maintaining armed combat, and consolidating the national defense for the country in general and in Ho Chi Minh City in particular.

Navy Group M72 Conducts Combat Readiness Training

902E0178A Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN
in Vietnamese 12 Feb 90 p 2

[By Ho Anh Thang]

[Text] Differing from a number of other naval units, Group M72 is the branch's primary mobile force in constant combat readiness to protect the territorial waters of the fatherland. A prominent feature of the group is its dispersal over three different and widely separated areas, causing great difficulties in the process of organizing training and achieving the combat readiness mission. The group's combat cadre force is also divided into three areas. To achieve the training mission and ensure high combat readiness under these conditions, the group must apply every consistent training method. The guideline established in training last year was to respect a spirit of systematic and total fundamentalism.

Previously, the group's training organization was inflexible and mechanical. The training sequence from individual techniques and tactics to joint techniques and tactics, and from the training of each person and ship to the joint training of the entire group occupied no small amount of time in each training period. Notwithstanding, the quality of training was still not high and occasionally supplementary training was necessary before a mission was accepted. Consequently, during 1989 in Group M72, a method of training following the mission requirements of each basic unit and ship was instituted. In achieving this method, the group encountered curriculum difficulties. No unified written lesson plans existed for this method, only written and recorded notes and material. All the cadres with training experience studied this material to compile essential and consistent subjects. Although these subjects were self-chosen, the systematic nature of comprehension patterns

in training could not be destroyed. Training had to be ensured from the lowest to the highest level and from the simple to the complex. During training, each man was paired with an experienced individual to raise joint combat capabilities. Complete training was conducted in one subject before shifting to another theme. From the very beginning of the year, the group trained combat missile operators with urgent requirements for immediate action when situations occur. Therefore, after a month of missile training, the group achieved high results in a firing exercise. To closely coordinate training with the combat readiness mission, right during the training, the group conducted sea exercises for trainees. This is an extremely important lesson because the combat readiness of naval forces must first of all address the high mobility of ships and boats. Never before as during 1989 did Group M72 organize such a number of ships fully equipped for training and combat readiness to conduct sea operations. The process of sea exercises is one of self-organizing joint combat training and practice, while ensuring communications and liaison and absolute safety. Due to skilled practice and training right during the sea operations process, cadre command standards and individual actions clearly improved.

Another concerning problem in training and combat readiness in Group M72 is the firm and planned organization of the cadre ranks. With a divided and understaffed cadre force, why must Group M72 still train in and successfully achieve other missions? The group commander told us that during the process of unit training and command, each cadre and aide must assume command responsibility for one or two posts. During the training process, a cadre is assigned administrative as well as training responsibility. Previously, battalion-level cadres only trained to the company level but the battalion level now is designated for joint training with other battalions. Flotillas train according to a self-established plan closely connected with mission requirements and approved by upper echelons. Thanks to this, the training abilities of cadres at all levels, including sector chiefs, have all risen. To achieve training following mission requirements, an extremely important factor directly affecting its quality is the training plan. Beginning training each year, the group and all primary level units designate the initial plan for each month and quarter and the entire year. Naturally, designation of an initial plan is advantageous in maintaining and inspecting training systems but to a highly mobile and combat ready unit, unexpected missions cannot be predetermined. Therefore, the units this year, based on their own specific mission requirements, have formulated plans and conducted training themselves. Upper echelons, after approving the plans, are responsible for inspecting, monitoring and assisting lower echelons to achieve those plans. A training plan for the entire group is established by each force detachment. The characteristics within each detachment may be used to coordinate training between forces. In training exercises aboard ship with combat ready weapons, plans and measures for ensuring safety are necessary. These plans are not formulated

following an inflexible model because if an unexpected mission occurs during training, the plan must be changed consistent with the men, equipment and personnel quality. Clearly, to ensure completion of the training and combat readiness curricula during the past training year, Group M72 made many renovations in the plan. Because these renovations were consistent with the nature and characteristics of the mission, training results, as evaluated by upper echelon inspections, were high.

In the training accomplishments of Group M72, it is necessary to relate that of self-training to acquire technician ranks. Units did not conduct overall technician training but only to the extent of those needed. If a technician was needed, one was trained; coordinating theoretical and practical training right on the ships and with the group's technical equipment. This method saved training expenses under the present situation of extreme financial stringency. Fully utilizing all sea-going vessels for technician training, the group saved nearly 500 tons of training fuel during 1989.

Concluding a year of training and combat readiness, Group M72 was rated by the navy as the training unit achieving the highest quality in the entire region. The branch also chose the group as a model unit in the training task. The unit successfully completed the combat readiness mission with combat ready forces constantly maintaining a full 60 percent combat watch for two continuous years. During the training and combat readiness exercise process, the unit traveled 13,800 nautical miles and ensured safety. These figures are large compared to 1987 when the entire group only traveled 200 nautical miles. Some ships during the past year went to sea 12 or 13 times for training and unexpected missions with a total of 580 sea voyages. Despite such a large number of voyages, not one vessel was involved in a collision or ran aground during the mission process. Besides active elementary and advanced training of succeeding technician ranks, the group knew how to fully utilize and develop the abilities of highly skilled technicians. The group presently has nearly 70 engineers trained both inside and outside the country, and many middle-level technicians. By material incentives and benefits and a system of product contracts, the technician ranks last year repaired many previously unrepairable items. This is one of the factors permitting Group M72 to successfully complete the mission this year.

Naval Group M47 Tightens Discipline, Improves Training

902E0185A Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN
in Vietnamese 13 Feb 90 p 2

[By Le Nhat]

[Excerpts] In a unit engaged in combat readiness training, discipline is considered an important factor to raise the quality of this training and the degree of combat readiness. There was a time when people mentioned naval group M47 they mentioned the reality of its

prolonged weakness in terms of discipline and the army-people relationship. After it was improved and consolidated with a new command, that disciplinary weakness has basically been overcome—there no longer were any major violations of discipline and its troops regained the confidence and affection of the people where it was stationed. However, with the new command, the group's training in discipline remained an issue that deserved attention. In a conversation with us, Lieutenant Colonel Le Van Uc, the group's deputy chief of staff, frankly put it this way: "A reality for us command cadres at the present time is not to worry much about the quality of training. What we mostly worry about is how to bring the unit into disciplinary order and to stabilize our living conditions."

The deputy chief of staff's worries originated from the unit's realities. As we looked back, in 1989 disciplinary violations committed by its troops still remained. There occasionally were cases of desertion, late return from furloughs, and lack of security in learning and daily activities. The phenomenon of conflict and lack of solidarity existing between its troops and the people, and between its troops and local youths, was far from over. In daily activities, the phenomenon of advocating freedom, using inappropriate spoken words and incorrect relationships toward cadres, fellow soldiers, and people of superior and inferior levels still existed. In the past year, a number of members of the unit, mostly those in the typhoon and flood disaster areas, because of family difficulties, received hardship allowances from the unit and were granted permission to go home, but almost all of them returned to the unit only after their furloughs had expired. We must add that a number of localities where troops had committed disciplinary violations failed to cooperate with the unit in resolving their problems. In the case of some newly-recruited troops, shortly after they had been inducted into the army, official letters from their localities arrived to assert that they were not fit for being inducted because they had family difficulties to cope with. The phenomenon of neglecting management led to a failure to understand that disciplinary organization would first of all depend on the abilities of cadres at all levels to assume management and command. Cadres did not correctly observe the procedures of making reports from the lowest level up; therefore, there were cases in which the absence of some troops was found out only when some upper-level cadres did some control work. In addition, some cadres gave a militaristic treatment to their men. Because of this, disciplinary action was taken against a number of cadres and a company commander was removed from his position.

According to Lieutenant Colonel Le Van Uc, those cases of disciplinary failure were not major ones, but they gave rise to the need for all cadres to feel compelled to pay attention to them. In order to put an end to that situation, the group's leading cadres directly assumed control and proceeded with reorganizing and perfecting the body of cadres within the group. They changed the goals of the group's activities in order to conform to its situation. When we visited Battalion 3, its deputy commander in charge of political affairs, Major Nguyen

Dang Qua, told us that his unit was stationed in a residential area and there was no fence surrounding its barracks. He said: "The communicating relationships between soldiers and people are a necessity in the troops' activities. Therefore, we need to have strict and suitable management measures. Beyond the learning hours, the battalion has determined an appropriate time devoted to activities outside of the barracks and satisfying the minimum needs in our troops' activities. In addition to such activities, our battalion has many activities having varied and interesting goals to attract the young soldiers. The Group M47 units all attach importance to building a disciplinary base for their troops."

In 1989, Group M47 achieved great efficiency in training and combat readiness just because there were unified command and leadership at all levels in training and in the building of the disciplinary base. The conditions under which training was carried out were rather complicated, with almost all soldiers who had long been in the unit having left, hence a shortage of experienced people needed for training. A majority of soldiers who had been trained were sent to the islands to reinforce the forces there. Therefore, five of seven battalions were forced to take care of training the new recruits by themselves. The training task in stage one was thus fulfilled only by the subordinate units. Under such conditions, to improve the quality of training of new soldiers became a matter that cadres at all levels of command had to pay attention to and to try to renovate in terms of contents and duration of training. In the past, the training of new soldiers had taken from a month to a month and a half. Even then those soldiers had not been able to fully understand and master the technical and tactical aspects of training, and certainly not to reach a higher level of training. In 1989, the group's units directly assumed the training of their own soldiers. On that basis, the commanding cadres relied on the needs of their task to stick to the right contents and goals of training necessary for the combat and combat readiness tasks. Therefore, although the group did not actually engage itself in coordinated training only in stage two, it was the best unit in the branch of service in terms of training new soldiers. What deserved attention in connection with Group M47 in the 1989 training year was the fact that the group had adopted correct training formulas and methods and carried out training in accordance with the responsibilities of each individual and each echelon and in a realistic manner to fulfill the key tasks of its units. In the training process, it linked training plans with the plans for on-the-spot combat and mobile combat. With the "basic and realistic" formula, the 3-month training of new soldiers, in which the key goal was individual mastering of technical and tactical matters under direct training by the commanding cadres, rendered them totally capable, in addition to the basic things, of using all of the weapons and equipment that their unit currently had. As we mentioned earlier, in order to maintain good training quality, the unit attached great importance to building a disciplinary base. The teaching of regulations and laws preceded the

actual training. That was a new characteristic of Group M47. In the training process, the activities of basic-level units were combined with teaching them the concept of remaining ready to accept an assigned task when orders arrived. When they talked to us, all command cadres said that they were encouraged by the fact that never before had soldiers in their units been more aware of the combat readiness task as in the last year. [passage omitted]

The year 1989 is gone. The achievements in the training aimed at building the units in Group M47 have not yet satisfied its cadres and soldiers. The group's 1990 task is quite great and difficult. But as we look at the things it has been able to do, we can hope that better results could be obtained this year.

ECONOMIC

French Industrialists Visit on 18-23 Mar

BK2203090090 Hanoi VNA in English 0725 GMT
22 Mar 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 22—A delegation of the Sanofi Company of France visited Vietnam from March 18-23 as guests of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The delegation included Vaughan Billy [name as received], a commercial director and in charge of the company's relations with Vietnam. He is working on a number of projects in credit grant to Vietnam with priority given to pharmaceutical production, processing of farm produce and transfer of technology.

On March 20, the French delegation met with representatives of the External Economic Relations Ministry, the host organization, and some import-export companies here.

Swiss Company Explores Investment Possibilities

BK1403085990 Hanoi VNA in English 0751 GMT
14 Mar 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 14—Pierre Alain Avoyer, Bangkok-based senior executive of the Diethelm and Co. Ltd., an international investment company of Switzerland, met with senior Vietnamese officials from different public offices and industries at a gathering here on Monday [12 March] to explore possibilities for his company's investment in Vietnam.

Diethelm in the past invested in trade operations and industrial production, mostly in pharmacy and chemistry, in Hanoi, Haiphong and Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City). It liquidated in North Vietnam in 1956, and in South Vietnam in 1976.

At the reception, Pierre Alain Avoyer said his company wanted to invest in the production of industrial commodities, consumer goods and medicines in Vietnam. But, he added, it would carefully consider Vietnam's laws on taxation, auditing and labour before making any decision.

Joint Venture on Microwave System

BK1703160590 Hanoi VNA in English 1459 GMT
17 Mar 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17—A 30-channel digit microwave system has been put into operation in the port city of Haiphong.

The equipment of the entire system was produced by a Vietnam-Australia joint venture.

—The Kien An ship building enterprise in the port city of Haiphong in 1989 built 32 ships and barges, twice as many as the previous year. This year, it has invested more than one hundred million Dong for the purchase of modern technical equipment to boost production.

Agreement Signed on Cooperation With Lao Province

BK1303100090 Hanoi VNA in English 0708 GMT
13 Mar 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 13—An agreement has just been signed in the Vietnamese province of Phu Yen on its economic and trade cooperation with the Lao province of Savannakhet.

Under the agreement, each side will open a department store in the other's provincial capital.

Phu Yen also agrees to help Savannakhet build a sugar mill with a capacity of 50 tons [metric] per day. The document also provides for bilateral cooperation in other fields like agricultural development, forestry and trade on the basis of mutual benefit.

Second Singapore Container Shipping Line Operational

BK1003155590 Hanoi VNA in English 1458 GMT
10 Mar 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 10—The second container shipping line linking Ho Chi Minh City with Singapore has been put into operation.

This is a joint venture between the Transimex-Saigon Company and the Ben Nghe Harbour Company of Vietnam, and the PPS Shipping in Singapore. The first ship with 150 containers is scheduled to leave Ben Nghe Harbour in Ho Chi Minh City for Singapore, on March 11, and the following shipments will be made at ten days' interval.

Joint Educational Cooperation Promoted

BK1503080490 Hanoi VNA in English 0703 GMT
15 Mar 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 15—Two sister provinces, Quang Tri (Central Vietnam) and Savannakhet (Laos), have agreed on cooperation in organizing study tours and refresher mathematics-training courses for their senior high school teachers.

This is part of an educational cooperation plan for this year between the two provinces, which was reached during a Savannakhet delegation's recent visit to Quang Tri. The two sides also discussed the prospect of cooperation in training teachers for vocational schools of both of them.

Labor Minister Interviewed About Overseas Workers

902E0175A Hanoi LAO DONG in Vietnamese
18 Jan 90 p 7

[Interview with Labor, War Invalids, and Social Welfare Minister Tran Dinh Hoan by LAO DONG correspondent Pham Huy Hoan on 11 January 1990; place of interview not given]

[Text] [Pham Huy Hoan] Sir, how many Vietnamese laborers are presently working in foreign countries, and how much money do they contribute annually to the state?

[Tran Dinh Hoan] To this time, we have had 240,000 Vietnamese laborers working overseas. About 50,000 to 60,000 have completed their contracts and returned home. The present number is more than 180,000, most of them working in socialist countries except for the more than 10,000 in Iraq. The amount of money they contribute annually to the state is about 100 million rubles from socialist countries; and 25 million dollars from Iraq, possibly rising to 30 million dollars this year. On this occasion, I wish to state additionally that with such a high amount contributed to the state by Vietnamese laborers in Iraq, payment of only 40 percent of their monthly wages to their families is unreasonable. We have proposed that the state raise this level to 100 percent.

[Pham Huy Hoan] The cooperative labor agreement between Vietnam and the Soviet Union was implemented nearly 10 years ago. However, according to a recent evaluation by the chief of the Department of Labor Resources and Cadre Training of the Soviet Labor Commission, P.K. Rudep, "This noble objective has been replaced by totally using the simple labor strength of Vietnamese workers in enterprises"—an opinion in the December 89 Issue 45 of THOI MOI LX [Soviet New Times]. Not a few letters from overseas laborers to LAO DONG have confirmed this reality and clearly expressed disappointment over the situation resembling "abandoning one's child in the market" of labor management agencies. Would you tell us the reason for developments that are deviating from the theme of the signed agreements.

[Tran Dinh Hoan] The first reason for this increasing deviation from the initial objectives of signed agreements is that from the beginning, designation of our cooperative labor objective, due to historic conditions with an ideology directing that "friendship comes first," failed to accurately reflect the true objective of international cooperation in labor. When we do not properly follow procedure, the shortcomings will gradually be

exposed. All countries designate the objectives of international cooperation as economic, scientific, and technological, and clearly on the basis of being beneficial to both parties, and are in substance labor exports.

The second reason is our slow shift to a formula for implementing cooperation. In reality, cooperation consists of two entirely different fields: the field of state management of international cooperation, meaning issues involving policy, the market and the framework agreement; and another field of specific labor cooperation carried out by economic units. This is precisely in keeping with management principle, but the present administrative apparatus organization from ministries and management boards in the other countries to regions, complexes, units, etc. is irrational.

The third reason is that we are extremely encumbered with the payment mechanism in socialist countries. Both non-transferable and transferable rubles are still only abstract currency. Labor cooperation must be beneficial but that benefit must be paid. However, we have encountered a great many difficulties in protecting the laborer's right to punctual payment. Actually, agreements on the quality and number of laborers sent to work must be accompanied by a separate agreement on payment. However, we did not fully estimate this complexity. Despite the historic reasons, we wish to accept the blame for this matter.

[Pham Huy Hoan] The task of restructuring in the Soviet Union is encountering not a few difficulties, including a shortage of jobs. At the same time, profound social and political changes are occurring in the socialist countries of eastern Europe. What is the effect of this situation on Vietnamese working in those countries and what course is the ministry taking to overcome their shortage of jobs?

[Tran Dinh Hoan] A common feature of laborers in other socialist countries is a lack of employment. At the present time, 25 to 30 percent of the Vietnamese laborers in the Soviet Union are out of work so income is low. On the other hand, the cost of living is high; one kilogram of pork that was previously 2.5 rubles in a state store must now be purchased in a state farm market at a price of seven to nine rubles. Wages are not at the old level but money must be spent on food at the new level so those with a low income and lack of work are encountering difficulties in their daily living. In the socialist countries of eastern Europe, a number of similar difficulties also exist due to the recent social and political upheavals. According to data of the Soviet Institute of Labor Science, it is estimated that in 1990, the countries of Eastern Europe will have a surplus of 2 to 3 million laborers, with this figure rising to 20 million by 1995. Therefore, we predict that the number of Vietnamese laborers in the countries of eastern Europe and the Soviet Union will decrease during the 1991-1995 period.

Confronted with this situation, we have held discussions with the concerned ministries and recognize the necessity for restricting to the lowest level the continued

introduction of laborers to other countries during 1990. Specifically, in the protocol signed with the Democratic Republic of Germany this year, only a few hundred replacements will be sent; and discussions with Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia have still not been held. The Soviet Union has requested 16,300 laborers this year, and we have made many reductions. Thus, beginning 1990, the primary task is consolidation. Those laborers presently overseas will be reallocated from locations with surpluses to those with shortages. If the laborer does not agree or the enterprise does not concur, there is a possibility we will make arrangements for their return home.

[Pham Huy Hoan] Monthly, the laborers must deposit money in a social insurance fund, such as in the Soviet Union (12 rubles), in the Democratic Republic of Germany (60 marks), and a similar amount in Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia. According to the agreement, 60 percent of these funds are transferred to Vietnam for continued insurance for the laborer. Upon their return, will they receive a subsidy from this fund?

[Tran Dinh Hoan] Some countries clearly stipulate how much of the funds they transfer us belong to the social insurance fund and some do not. However, I believe that all of the 100 million rubles the state receives annually is social insurance money. Our ministry has only recently turned to this matter but there has still been no official decision from the state. Following the course of the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Welfare, the former units of all returning laborers, if workers and civil servants, are responsible for accepting them back. If the unit has a labor surplus, the returning laborer will have a status equal to all other workers and civil servants presently in the enterprise. If the laborer was from the rural area or the streets before departure, his period of continuous work will be calculated for continued employment in state agencies. If he does not work in the state area and wishes to receive a subsidy, a stipulated unemployment subsidy will be paid in accordance with the period worked for the state overseas.

[Pham Huy Hoan] According to foreign news sources, more than 1,000 Vietnamese laborers in the Democratic Republic of Germany have fled to West Germany. Are these figures correct and what measures has the Labor Management Board taken to halt these illegal departures?

[Tran Dinh Hoan] The figures we have up to now is that about 600 Vietnamese laborers in the Democratic Republic of Germany have escaped into West Germany. Because we have no policy on the departure of Vietnamese laborers, the passports of everyone are held by the Labor Management Board. Recently however, in the tide of millions of citizens from the Democratic Republic of Germany crossing into West Germany, a number of laborers took advantage of this opportunity to illegally depart. We still have no agreement with West German leaders so their residency in West Germany is illegal. Recently, West Germany returned 22 so the number of departures has slowed. We encourage them to

return to work and to gain experience, and no disciplinary measures have been taken at all.

[Pham Huy Hoan] A burning issue for Vietnamese laborers overseas is the shipment of goods home but the regulations on what commodities can or cannot be sent are still unclear. Therefore, every time something is sent it is considered a "gamble" with the customs officials of the fraternal country. Could you tell us what the ministry has done to alleviate these confusing obstacles?

[Tran Dinh Hoan] You're right. The shipping of goods home by laborers is encountering a great many difficulties and is undergoing increasingly complex changes. For example, to resolve this matter in the Soviet Union, when our labor management board chairman met with the director of customs at Moscow airport to discuss specific regulations on the amount and type of shipped goods, he received this reply, "Because we are short of goods, many are detained without any legal document at all!" The situation is similar in Bulgaria where recently our laborers were not permitted to carry a number of essential goods home. The ministry has voiced its opinion on this matter and if the friends do not agree, we will not continue to sign agreements to send laborers there. Recently, the vice minister of Labor worked with the Soviet Union for an official announcement that motorcycles purchased before August 1989 may continue to be shipped home. The Soviet side stated that working procedures would be corrected at the exit points but with such a reply as that of the Moscow airport customs director, difficulties will continue to exist.

[Pham Huy Hoan] There are many complaints about the special rights and privileges of labor management cadres in foreign countries. Could you tell us how many degenerate cadres have been prosecuted?

[Tran Dinh Hoan] Regarding the accusation of degenerate cadres, we coordinate with the embassy investigation system for annual resolution. Last year, four groups conducted investigations on the situation of cadres and the labor ranks. The year 1990 is one of consolidation and we will continue to resolve the complaints of laborers and to target and organize on-site inspections. I do not have the statistics here on the number of degenerate cadres who have been disciplined but the total number of negative incidents investigated and prosecuted among all cadres and workers account for two percent.

[Pham Huy Hoan] At the present time, a number of western corporations have come to seek a source of labor from us. In accordance with what formula will our export labor policy be oriented in the years to come?

[Tran Dinh Hoan] As I stated before, the course of labor cooperation with eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in the years to come will probably decline. If continued, we must redefine the cooperation objective on the basis of a composite socioeconomic and also beneficial target. I think the trend toward labor cooperation is inevitable in the process of international labor assignment. If

difficulties arise, the formula and location of cooperation must be changed, not stopped. We suggest that the state permit the cooperation market to be opened; besides the Middle and Near East, requests are beginning from corporations in France, Italy, and a number of countries in northern Europe. Concerning the formula of coming cooperation organization, we will separate state management from specific cooperation; and establish a system of units, corporations and enterprises cooperating with foreign countries. In other words, economic units will cooperate directly with each other and through that, engage in labor cooperation.

Foreign Education Cooperation Expands

*BK1103083990 Hanoi VNA in English 0733 GMT
11 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March—Vietnam's policy is to develop international cooperation in education.

Over the past 40 years, it has established relations with all the socialist countries. Since the early 70's relations have been set up with UNESCO and UNICEF and with a number of countries in Asia, the Pacific, northern and western Europe. Cooperation with UNICEF has been most fruitful. From 1976 to 1988, UNICEF investments in long-term projects totalled 24,554,000 U.S. dollars.

UNICEF is now engaged in projects covering health education for primary-school pupils, vocational orientation and informal primary education.

UNDP-Assisted Construction Project Approved

*BK2103091490 Hanoi VNA in English 0742 GMT
21 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 21—A document of project on roofing materials was signed here on March 20 by Nguyen Manh Kiem, Vietnamese deputy construction minister, and David Smith, UNDP [United Nations Development Program] resident representative here.

The project aims to demonstrate the feasibility of producing in Vietnam high-quality durable natural fibre concrete (NEC) roofing materials, and create conditions for the continued improvement and the dissemination of the technology for these roofing materials in the country.

Those objectives will be achieved by strengthening the research and extension capacity of the Institute for Building Materials (IBM) with the technical assistance of the executing agency habitat (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements).

The project will establish three pilot plants for production of NEC tiles and sheets, and will also upgrade the equipment and research facilities at the IBM laboratory.

UNDP will contribute one million U.S. dollars to the project.

Seminar on Draft Navigation Law Held

*BK2303090590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 22 Mar 90*

[Text] This morning [23 March], the National Assembly Judiciary Committee and the Ministry of Communications and Transportation jointly held a seminar on the Draft Navigation Law of Vietnam. Lawyer Ngo Ba Thanh, chairman of the committee, and Le Kha, vice minister of communications and transportation, chaired the seminar. Attending were representatives of the various central agencies and some provinces, organs, and units concerned.

The seminar was held to solicit suggestions from concerned agencies and individuals in preparation for the draft law to be scrutinized by the Judiciary Committee and submitted to the National Assembly at its coming session in June.

FAO-Funded Project Signed

*BK2303093690 Hanoi VNA in English 0714 GMT
23 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 23—A project on "preparatory assistance in policy impact analysis and planning" has been signed here by Tran Khai, vice-chairman of the state planning commission and S. Zakhariyev, representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Vietnam.

The project will be implemented in July 1990 with FAO's contribution of 258,000 U.S. dollars.

The project objective is to strengthen national capacity and analyze the impact of alternative policies and technologies on growth and equity, and in planning optimum crops and livestock policy and technology interventions across agro-ecological zones.

HABUBANK Invests 4 Billion Dong Last Year

*BK2503085890 Hanoi VNA in English 0722 GMT
25 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 25—The Hanoi Housing Development Bank (HABUBANK) has over the past year invested about four billion Vietnamese dong (U.S. dollars one million) in building tourist villas and dwelling houses with a total floorage of 9,057 square metres of which 5 villas (totalling 964 square metres of floorage) and 80 residential flats have been completed and put to use.

HABUBANK, the first joint stock company in Hanoi, started operation in April 1989 with an initial capital of 1.018 billion Vietnamese dong pooled by 31 founding shareholders. At present, the company has issued more than 4,400 shares, raising its paid-up capital to more than three billion Vietnamese dong. Until now each share is paid a monthly dividend of five per cent on average.

This year, HABUBANK plans to invest in building 400 more residential flats for sale and two major commercial and shopping centres in the capital city.

First Village Television Station Set-up

*BK2403080290 Hanoi VNA in English 0730 GMT
24 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 24—Van Phu village in Ha Son Binh Province, southwest of Hanoi, is the first village in Vietnam to have built a television station of its own.

The station, with a 50 watt transmitter capable of covering an area within a five-kilometre radius, was designed and constructed by a unit of the army's General Technical Department. The cost of construction and equipment total Vietnamese Dongs 36 million (U.S. dollars 9,000).

Until now the station only transmits video film programmes but its coverage will soon be enriched with national and local news as well as the local population's economic, cultural and social activities.

In addition to agricultural production, villagers of Van Phuc prosper in weaving silk and brocade their well-known traditional product. At present, 500 out of the village's 700 households have television sets.

Khanh Hoa Province Develops Wired-Radio Service

*BK2803062590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Text] To date, Khanh Hoa Province has set up 135 district and grass-roots wired radio stations with nearly 20,000 assorted loudspeakers and 1,100 km of transmission cables. The province is now equipped with five ultra-short FM transmitters and 50 public television booths. Cam Ranh and Van Ninh Districts and Nha Trang City have built five FM broadcasting stations capable of good transmission and reception. Nha Trang City is the province's pacesetter in the development of wired-radio system, boasting 150 public loudspeakers and 8,000 family-installed loudspeakers. Cam Ranh District has used solar energy in wired-radio and television transmissions to satisfactorily meet popular demand.

SOCIAL

Women Attend Conference of Parliamentarians

*BK1603085990 Hanoi VNA in English 0720 GMT
16 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 16—A delegation of Vietnamese women led by Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong, vice-chairwoman of the National Assembly, attended the first conference of Asian women parliamentarians on population and women's role held in New Delhi, India, on March 12-14.

Addressing the conference, the Vietnamese head delegate brought out the Vietnamese women's role and their contributions to the struggle for national liberation and reunification in the past and national construction at present. She laid emphasis on the active participation of the deputies to the National Assembly in supervising the activities of the National Committee for Population and Family Planning from the centre down to the grass-roots levels.

New Radio Programs in Hmong Language Discussed

*BK1303092990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 8 Mar 90*

[Text] On 6 and 7 March in Yen Bai city, with the coordination of the Voice of Vietnam radio station's editorial staff, the Hoang Lien Son Provincial Party Committee and People's Committee held a seminar on radio programs in Hmong language and propaganda work in support of the implementation of the Political Bureau's resolution no. 22 on economic development in the mountainous regions.

Attending the seminar were representatives of radio stations, newspapers, and news agencies in Hoang Lien Son, Son La, Lai Chau, Quang Ninh, Ha Tuyen, and Cao Bang provinces and representatives from the Party Central Committee Nationalities Department, the Institute of Nationalities of the Social Science Committee, the Central Committee for Ideology and Culture, the Ministry of Information, and the Voice of Vietnam Radio editorial staff.

At the seminar, the participants pointed out the actual economic situation and material, cultural, and spiritual life of the people of various nationalities in the northern mountainous regions, including the Hmong nationality. They affirmed: although the material life of these compatriots has improved in recent years, especially since the Sixth CPV Congress, it is still rife with difficulties in general. Nomadism and forest destruction, in particular, still prevail in many localities. Meanwhile, material and spiritual life remains poor, illiteracy is on the increase, and corrupt customs and superstition are widely prevalent and have become a cause of concern in the recent past.

Based on this situation, representatives of the mass media from the six northern provinces who were present at the seminar warmly welcomed the Voice of Vietnam radio station's plan to coordinate with the Hoang Lien Son radio station in presenting radio programs in Hmong language in the near future. This is a specific, practical task in response to the Political Bureau's resolution no. 22 on socioeconomic development in the mountainous regions.

Representatives of radio stations and newspapers in the northern provinces must consider the broadcasting of programs in Hmong language from the national radio as a common undertaking, which is rife with difficulties and complexities. Therefore, it is their responsibility to

cooperate closely with the Voice of Vietnam radio station by supplying it with many interesting news, articles, and songs that are in line with the demands of the Hmong compatriots.

The seminar also devoted time to drawing on experience in conducting mass mobilization work among the people in the mountainous regions since resolution no. 22 was issued by the Political Bureau.

Many central-level sectors and mountainous provinces are now in the first stage of implementing this resolution. Therefore, it is necessary to give them enough time to review its practical results. Propaganda work, first of all broadcasting, which is one of the means of mass communication that has easy access to people in the mountainous regions, must be intensified and carried out in coordination with various sectors and localities to discover both weak aspects and new factors in order to help apply to life the Political Bureau's resolution no. 22 on development of the mountainous regions, thus scoring new achievements as expected by our compatriots of all nationalities.

Seminar Held on Population

*BK2403085490 Hanoi VNA in English 0726 GMT
24 Mar 90*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 24—A seminar entitled "Population and Development in the Mekong Delta Region" was held in Ho Chi Minh City recently by the Social Science Institute with financial aid from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

Fifteen papers presented at the seminar dealt at length with the population boom in the Mekong Delta region, which increased 5 times in the past 30 years. This is one of many reasons for the low capita income in the region—about 30 U.S. dollars a year.

The seminar appealed for integrated cooperation among sectors concerned to popularize family planning in the region.

BIOGRAPHIC

Information on Vietnamese Personalities

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[Editorial Report] The following information on Vietnamese personalities has been extracted from Vietnamese-language sources published in Hanoi, unless otherwise indicated. Asterisk indicates that this is the first known press reference to this individual functioning in this capacity.

Nguyen Cong Ai [NGUYEENX COONG AIS]

*Vice chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Council, in charge of the agricultural department; on 9 Dec 89 he was elected to this position at a meeting of the council. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 10 Dec 89 p 1)

Nguyen Van Anh [NGUYEENX VAWN ANH]

Director of the Ho Chi Minh City Industry Office; *member of the 4th People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City; on 9 Dec 89 he was elected to the latter position at a meeting of the city's 4th People's Council. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 10 Dec 89 p 1)

Xuan Cang [XUAAN CANG]

*Chairman of the Control Committee of the Vietnam Writers Association; on 1 Nov 89 he was elected to this position by the association. (HANOI MOI 2 Nov 89 p 1)

Doan Tran Canh [DOANF TRAANF CANHR]

*SRV ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Ghana; on 25 Jan 90, after presenting his credentials, he met with a member of the Provisional Defense Council of Ghana. (NHAN DAN 2 Feb 90 p 4)

Nguyen Khac Binh [NGUYEENX KHAWCS BINHF]

Standing vice chairman of the People's Committee, Ho Chi Minh City; *chairman of the People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City; recently he was elected to the latter position by the 4th People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 9 Dec 89 p 1)

Truong Van Da [TRUWOWNG VAWN DA]

Deputy director of the Agriculture Office, Ho Chi Minh City; vice chairman of the People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City; recently he was elected to the latter position by the 4th People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 9 Dec 89 p 3)

Nguyen Van Chi [NGUYEENX VAWN CHIS]

Director of the Labor and War Invalids Office, Ho Chi Minh City; *member of the 4th People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City; on 9 Dec 89 he was elected to this position at a meeting of the 4th People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 10 Dec 89 p 2)

Nguyen Van Huan [NGUYEENX VAWN HUAANS]

*Vice chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Council, in charge of industry; on 9 Dec 89 he was elected to this position at a meeting of the Ho Chi Minh City 4th People's Council. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 10 Dec 89 p 1)

Hoang The Lam [HOANG THEES LAAM], Colonel

He co-authored an article on national defense education for youth, which was published in the cited course. (NHAN DAN 15 Jan 90 p 3)

Nguyen Ngoc Le [NGUYEENX NGOCJ LEE]

Vice chairman of the People's Committee, Hanoi Municipality; on 25 Jan 90 he welcomed Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Tran Duc Luong visiting a candy factory in Hanoi. (HANOI MOI 25 Jan 90 p 4)

Vu Mao [VUX MAOX]

Chief Cabinet Director of the Office of the National Assembly and of the State Council; on 24 Jan 90 he was present at a gathering where State Council Chairman Vo Chi Cong met with the Swedish ambassador to Vietnam. (NHAN DAN 25 Jan 90 p 1)

Vu Tu Nam [VUX TUS NAM]

*General secretary of the Vietnam Writers Association; on 1 Nov 89 he was elected to this position by the association. (HANOI MOI 2 Nov 89 p 1)

Le Van Nam [LEE VAWN NAWM]

Director of the Construction Office, Ho Chi Minh City; *member of the 4th People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City; on 9 Dec 89 he was elected to the latter position at a meeting of the City's 4th People's Council. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 10 Dec 89 p 1)

Nguyen Vinh Nghiep [NGUYEENX VINHX NGHIEPJ]

Chairman of the People's Committee, 4th term, Ho Chi Minh City; recently he was re-elected to this position by the 4th People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 9 Dec 89 p 3)

Vuong Huu Nhon [VUWVOWNG HUWX NHOWN]

*Chairman of the State Inspection Commission; *vice chairman of the People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City; on 9 Dec 89 he was elected to the latter position at a meeting of the 4th People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 10 Dec 89 p 1)

Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong [NGUYEENX THIJ NGOCJ PHUWOWNGJ]

Vice chairman of the National Assembly; member of the Ho Chi Minh City delegation of the National Assembly; recently she was interviewed by Saigon Giai Phong newspaper. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 1 Jan 90 p 6)

Trang Van Quy [TRANG VAWN QUIS]

*Vice chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Council, in charge of literary affairs (van xa); on 9 Dec 89 he was elected to this position at a meeting of the Ho Chi Minh City 4th People's Council. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 10 Dec 89 p 1)

Nguyen Rang [NGUYEENX RAWNG]

*Chief of staff of the Ho Chi Minh City Military Command; *member of the 4th People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City; he was elected to the latter position at a meeting of the City's 4th People's Council on 9 Dec 89. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 10 Dec 89 p 1)

Nguyen Quang Sang [NGUYEENX QUANG SANGS]

*Deputy secretary general of the Vietnam Writers Association; on 1 Nov 89 he was elected to this position by the association. (HANOI MOI 2 Nov 89 p 1)

Nguyen Quyen Sinh [NGUYEENX QUYENF SINH]

*Director of the Vietnam General Department of Tourism; recently he was interviewed in the cited source. (DAI DOAN KET Lunar New Year Special Issue 1990 p 7)

Phan Thanh [PHAN THAN], Lt Colonel

*Head of the Criminal Police Office, Ho Chi Minh City; he was mentioned in an article on crime suppression in Ho Chi Minh City. (DAI DOAN KET 2-8 Jan 90 p 5)

Lam Van The [LAAM VAWN THEE]

Director of the Municipal Security Forces, Ho Chi Minh City; *member of the Ho Chi Minh City 4th People's Council; on 9 Dec 89 he was elected to the latter position at a meeting of the city's 4th People's Council. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 10 Dec 89 p 1)

Tran Quoc Thuan [TRAANF QUOOC S THUAANJ]

Judge at the People's Court, Ho Chi Minh City; *secretary of the People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City; recently he was elected to the latter position by the 4th People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City. (Ho Chi Minh City 9 Dec 89 p 3)

Nguyen Van Tong [NGUYEENX VAWN TONGJ]

Director of the Information and Culture Office, Ho Chi Minh City; *member of the 4th People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City; on 9 Dec 89 he was elected to the latter position at a meeting of the 4th People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 10 Dec 89 p 2)

Duong Quang Trung [ZUWOWNG QUANG TRUNG]

Director of the Public Health Office, Ho Chi Minh City; *member of the 4th People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City; on 9 Dec 89 he was elected to the latter position at a meeting of the People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 10 Dec 89 p 2)

Nguyen Trung [NGUYEENX TRUNG]

*SRV ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Thailand; on 23 Jan 90 he presented his credentials to the King of Thailand. (NHAN DAN 25 Jan 90 p 1)

Pham Chanh Truc [PHAMJ CHANHS TRUWCJ]

*Vice chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Council, in charge of foreign economic relations; on 9 Dec 89 he was elected to this position at a meeting of the 4th People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 10 Dec 89 p 1)

Le Quang Truong [LEE QUANG TRUWOWNG]

Director of the Finance Office, Ho Chi Minh City;
*member of the 4th People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City;
on 9 Dec 89 he was elected to the latter position at a
meeting of the 4th People's Council, Ho Chi Minh City.
(Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 10 Dec 89 p 1)

Hoang Anh Tuan [HOANGF ANH TUAANS]

Director of the Science and Technology Committee, Ho
Chi Minh City; *member of the 4th People's Council, Ho

Chi Minh City; on 9 Dec 89 he was elected to the latter
position at a meeting of the city's 4th People's Council. (Ho
Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 10 Dec 89 p 2)

**Nguyen Bac Viet [NGUYEENX BAWCS VIEETS]
Colonel**

He wrote an article on national defense education for
youth, which was published in the cited source. (NHAN
DAN 15 Jan 90 p 3)